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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Japan

Miyazawa, Farm Minister on Rice Liberalization

OW0112034492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0336 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO—Japan may be forced to lift its ban on rice imports and accept a scheme to replace it with tariffs as the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks moves toward its year-end conclusion, Farm Minister Masami Tanabu suggested Tuesday.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Tanabu told reporters after a regular cabinet meeting that Japan may make a "political decision" to back a draft proposal calling for the conversion of all nontariff barriers on farm trade into tariffs or may seek a revision of that proposal.

But he said he is doubtful whether the multilateral talks, held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, will be concluded by the end of the year.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, meanwhile, told the House of Representatives Budget Committee that Japan's basic policy is to make the Uruguay Round a success "through mutual concessions of participating countries" to reduce trade barriers.

Answering questions by an opposition lawmaker, Miyazawa also indicated that Japan will continue to seek an exemption for rice from the proposed tariffication of farm imports, which he called a focal point of the negotiations.

Japan has opposed the inclusion of rice, arguing that it needs to maintain self-sufficiency in production of rice, its staple food, for reasons for food security.

The government officially says it is not considering any compromise. Some government officials, however, have begun to hint at a change in the policy, given the possibility that total Japanese rejection of the tariffication proposal might be met with worldwide criticism.

Reduction of U.S. Bases on Okinawa 'Demanded'

OW2811120992 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 23 Nov 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Major Reduction of U.S. Military on Okinawa Demanded"]

[Text] It was disclosed that former assistant director of the State Department's Policy Planning Bureau, Samuel Burger—who is in charge of national security issues for the transition team, which reportedly holds influence over the Clinton administration—made a proposal on diplomatic and defense policies to significantly trim U.S. Forces in the Asian-Pacific region. Because of this, some people are hoping to reduce U.S. Forces on Okinawa.

In the report, Burger proposed major reductions, saying that because the cold war was over and the Soviet Union had collapsed, "the United States is blessed with the historical opportunity of developing effective and inexpensive military strategies"; however, he fails to address on what scale the reduction would be or whether the proposal is applicable to U.S. Forces Japan [USFJ].

Regarding reduction of the U.S. Forces in the Asian-Pacific region, the Bush administration announced a plan to reduce some 6,600 personnel over three years, starting in 1993. Moreover, Secretary of Defense Cheney disclosed that the United States would keep some 45,000 USFJ personnel without changing the current status, until the beginning of the 21st century. Because of these announcements, a lot of attention is being paid to the report.

During the presidential campaign, Clinton also disclosed a plan designed to reduce the strength of U.S. Forces, including the U.S. Forces in Europe, from a current 1.9 million to 1.4 million by 1997. Stressing that U.S. international leadership in the field of security will be weakened unless the United States recovers its national power, Clinton, who sets economic reconstruction as the largest pillar of his economic plan, wants to promote further reductions in defense expenses. We look forward to realizing major reductions in U.S. Forces on Okinawa.

Clinton stressed in his first speech, which he delivered on Veterans' Day, 11 November, a stance of maintaining the position of the world's strongest superpower nation. We are interested in finding out what kind of strategies Clinton will introduce; however, he has already indicated some of his strategies in his speeches. He explained the need to maintain the smallest nuclear deterrent force necessary, organize an ordinary force that can be deployed quickly, strengthen the capability of collecting information, and develop high-technology weapons.

The point we are concerned with is that the Burger report proposes forming a military unit for emergency deployment. It is said that operational costs for U.S. bases in Japan are the least expensive among U.S. bases in foreign countries, thanks to the Japanese Government's "sympathy budget." We cannot deny the possibility that U.S. Forces deployment in the Asian-Pacific region may be concentrated in Japan. We absolutely cannot accept this scenario. We hope that the peace created following the end of the cold war will be given to Okinawa too.

SRV Urged To Cooperate on POW-MIA Issue

OW0112092592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe urged Vietnam on Tuesday to fully cooperate with the United States in resolving the issue of U.S. prisoners of war or those missing in action during the Vietnam war, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said Watanabe made the request during a 40-minute meeting with Do Quoc Sam, chairman of Vietnam's State Planning Committee who arrived in Japan on Saturday for a weeklong visit.

Watanabe was quoted as saying that for normalization of relations between Vietnam and the United States to go ahead, Hanoi must give Americans the impression it is handing over all data on missing U.S. soldiers in its possession, and not only in increments.

He urged the Vietnamese Government to exert greater efforts to convince its officials to cooperate on the issue despite their understandably hard feelings toward the U.S. over the war.

Watanabe reminded Do Quoc Sam the issue has a bearing on the international donor community's stance towards extending cooperation to Vietnam.

Last month, Japan resumed official loans to Vietnam, which had remained suspended partly due to U.S. urgings that Japan help put pressure on Hanoi to resolve the issue of its missing servicemen.

The officials said Do Quoc Sam told Watanabe that Vietnam has "nothing to hide" and is doing all it can to collect and hand over data.

But he said it is not an easy task for the Vietnamese Government to obtain all data that may exist in rural areas, where he noted that parallel efforts have been going on to account for the significantly higher number of Vietnamese soldiers that went missing in action during the war.

The officials said Do Quoc Sam, in Japan at the invitation of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), also handed Watanabe a letter from Vice Premier Phan Van Khai inviting him to visit Vietnam.

They said Keidanren is planning to send a mission to Vietnam as early as February.

Hokkaido, Kuril Seek To Expand Visa-Free Trips

OW2611075292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Sapporo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Officials from Hokkaido and the Kuril islands agreed Thursday to expand the length and scope of mutual visa-free visits that were initiated in April between Japan's northernmost main island and four disputed islands held by the Russians.

Representatives from Hokkaido's Northern Territories Policy Headquarters and members of Russia's South Kurils Regional Assembly met here Thursday to discuss this year's exchanges and how they might be improved in the future.

The disputed islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets—are known in Russia as the "South Kurils," while Japan refers to them as its "northern territories."

The visa-free exchanges were set up to promote friendship and cooperation between the islands and Hokkaido, where most residents fled after the Soviet military overran the islands at the close of World War II.

On Thursday, the Kuril representatives led by assembly chairman M. I. Tereshko, and the officials from Hokkaido agreed that the length of the visits was too short and people were unable to meet for a dialogue.

They agreed to consider allowing the visitors to stay in hotels during the exchanges rather than on board ships and further improving the nature of the exchanges.

They further agreed to seek ways to include children's groups in the exchanges and to use helicopters for making the visits.

Tokyo, Moscow Agree on Expansion of Air Services

OW2711111392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Japan and Russia ended three days of aviation talks Friday with an agreement to expand bilateral flights and those between Japan and Europe via Siberia, the Transport Ministry said.

The accord calls for adding flights originating from Osaka via St. Petersburg to the existing Japan-Europe flights after the opening of new Kansai International Airport in Osaka, ministry officials said.

This will make it possible to reduce the flight time between Osaka and London by roughly four hours from the current 16 hours.

The new airport, now being built on a man-made island in Osaka Bay, is scheduled to open in the summer of 1994.

The two sides also agreed to open flights between Niigata, a Japanese city along the Sea of Japan, and Vladivostok in the Russian Far East.

Also agreed is a new route between Hakodate in Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island, and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk in the far east, the first regular link between Hokkaido and Russia.

Japan and Russia will both have the right to operate two flights weekly on the new routes, which Russia's Aeroflot airline is already scheduled to serve.

Given the need to expand or set up customs and immigration control facilities and increase necessary personnel in Hakodate and Niigata, the first flight is expected in the spring of 1993 on the Niigata-Vladivostok route and in the spring of 1994 or later on the Hakodate-Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk route, according to the ministry officials.

Launch of Moscow Science, Technology Center Noted

OW2711132592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Japan welcomes the establishment of the International Science and Technology Center in Moscow aimed at occupying the talents of former Soviet nuclear scientists and other experts on weapons of mass destruction, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued Friday.

The statement, issued in the name of Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, said Japan will recommend a Japanese Government official, Atsushi Shaku, as a candidate for director general of the center. Shaku now serves as a special assistant to the Science and Technology Agency.

Japan has decided to appoint Takaya Suto, the Foreign Ministry's top official in charge of scientific and technological affairs, as Japan's representative to the governing board of the center, it said.

The center was formally established earlier in the day in a signing ceremony in the Russian capital, which was participated in by representatives of Japan, the United States, the European Community and Russia.

The statement said Japan has strongly supported the idea of encouraging former Soviet scientists and engineers involved with nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction to stay in the country.

It noted that Japan has pledged 20 million dollars toward the center, while promising to actively assist the center's activities.

Ministry, PRC Embassy Agree on Repatriation

OW2611041092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0350 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Yokohama, Nov. 26 KYODO—Immigration authorities said Thursday they will repatriate 141 Chinese stranded here since last month when the Taiwanese fishing boat they were aboard developed a mechanical failure.

The Chinese from Fujian Province were headed for the United States on the 186-ton fishing boat, but were forced to dock last October 25 in Yokohama because of the mechanical trouble.

Foreign Ministry and Chinese Embassy officials had been discussing the matter regarding the Chinese for a month while the would-be refugees were put up in a warehouse on a Yokohama harbor pier.

The repatriation will take place sometime between the end of this month and early next year, the officials said.

Acid-Rain Ions From China Said Increasing

OW2611150592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1106 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Sakai, Osaka Pref., Nov. 26 KYODO—There has been a steady increase in the density and amount of acid-rain-causing sulfate ions brought from China by westerly winds, researchers at a university institute said Thursday.

The researchers, Assistant Professor Akira Mizohata and Assistant Norio Ito, working at an institute attached to the University of Osaka Prefecture, told a symposium in Sakai, southern Osaka, that data taken from instruments on the roof of their institute since 1986 shows a link between acid rain in Japan and China's increasing use of coal.

Mizohata and Ito said that during 1990, the density of the ions increased in March, when prevailing winds begin to blow from China, and that readings at 10-day intervals until the end of August averaged more than 6 micrograms per cubic meter.

This is more than the yearly average of 5.8 micrograms.

A microgram is one millionth of a gram.

Measurements of the density of the ions in the spring months of March to May fluctuated slightly, but showed an overall gradual increase.

If deductions are made to account for the presence of domestically produced ions from diesel vehicles and other pollutants, the researchers said the density of the ions coming from China in 1986 was 3.97 micrograms per cubic meter, and 5.26 micrograms in 1991.

The figure represents an increase of some 30 percent.

Mizohata and Ito said the change reflects China's dependence on coal as an energy source.

In 1990, the burning of coal released about 15 million tons of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere each year in China, about 10 times the amount released in Japan.

The sulfate ions which result from the action of sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere last for a considerably long time and easily drift across to Japan on prevailing air currents.

They are absorbed by clouds and fall as acid rain.

Mizohata said he expects China to increase its consumption of coal. "The resulting effect on Japan will increase," he said.

Group Leaves Yokohama for Extradition to China

OW2911112392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Yokohama, Nov. 29 KYODO—A total of 141 Chinese people believed to have illegally headed for the

United States left Yokohama Port for Nagasaki on Sunday to be extradited to China.

They began boarding two patrol boats of the fourth and 10th regional Maritime Safety Headquarters around 8:30 A.M. and left Yokohama Port around 2 P.M., maritime officials said.

Also aboard the boats are about 150 officers of the Maritime Safety Agency, officials of the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo and Foreign Ministry officials, the officials said.

The two vessels are scheduled to arrive in Nagasaki, western Japan, after about 40 hours at sea, they said. At Nagasaki, they will be transferred to a Chinese boat that will take them home.

The Chinese people were rescued off Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, on September 28 after their 186-ton fishing boat developed engine trouble and were transported to Yokohama on October 25.

Although they reportedly told investigators they departed Fujian Province in China for the U.S. in quest of work, the Justice Ministry's immigration bureau agreed Thursday with Chinese authorities to extradite them to China as suspicions about their illegal departure deepened.

The Chinese were to stay on their boat in the interim, but they were moved to a warehouse on a pier at Yokohama Port after three of them jumped into the sea on November 15 and one of them went missing.

First Day of Auto Talks With EC 'Deadlocked'

OW3011134992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1323 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—The first round of two-day automobile talks between Japan and the European Community (EC) ended Monday deadlocked with the two sides at odds over the expected demand for new cars, Japanese Government officials said.

Negotiators gathered at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry in Tokyo to decide on setting limits for Japanese automobile exports to the EC next year.

On the first day, the two sides were split on the demand outlook, which will become the basis for negotiations, with Japan predicting a slight fall from the previous year and the EC forecasting a marginal rise, the officials said.

They said some EC negotiators also called for including Japanese vehicles produced within the EC in the sales limits.

The Japanese team urged them to reconfirm the June 1991 joint statement in which the EC agreed it would not impose any regulations on Japanese automakers' investments in the EC nor on the distribution of Japanese cars made in the EC.

The EC side made no remark on the Japanese position, the officials said.

'Differences' Not Resolved

OW0112082492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0801 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO—Japan and the European Community (EC) ended two days of automobile talks Tuesday without resolving differences over the expected demand for new cars in the 12-nation group in 1993, Japanese Government officials said.

Negotiators did not begin to discuss monitoring or setting limits for Japanese car exports to the EC next year without agreeing on the outlook for demand, which will be the basis for negotiations, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry officials said.

The two sides will meet together again early next year in Brussels, but negotiations could take longer given that the talks on the limits for 1992 carried on until the end of April, the officials said.

For the 1993 demand outlook, Japan predicts a slight rise from this year, while the EC forecasts a marginal fall, they said.

Both sides have agreed the 1992 demand will fall about 2 percent from 1991's 13.89 million registered units of passenger cars, small commercial vehicles, and trucks of five tons or less.

Japan, however, expects demand to turn upward during the fourth quarter.

Turkish Prime Minister Arrives in Tokyo 1 Dec

OW0112110092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1043 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday for talks with Japanese leaders to forge closer relations between Turkey and Japan.

During his five-day official visit, Demirel will urge Japanese leaders to support more investment in Turkey, Turkish officials said.

The Turkish prime minister will also seek to exchange views on ways to assist Central Asian countries which gained independence when the Soviet Union collapsed, they said.

Demirel is scheduled to have talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday afternoon.

On Wednesday morning, Demirel and his wife Nazmiye are to have an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, followed by a court luncheon hosted by the imperial couple.

Demirel is also scheduled to visit the ancient capital of Kyoto in western Japan during his stay in this country.

Ethiopian Minister on UN Presence in Somalia

OW0112105392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO—Ethiopia's foreign minister said Tuesday he endorses deploying United Nations peacekeeping forces in war-torn Somalia if their role is limited to deterring warring clans' attacks on relief convoys.

Ato Seyoum Mesfin also told of the grave impact of neighboring Somalia's civil war on Ethiopia's security in a news conference at the Japan National Press Club.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has said a dispatch of armed UN personnel to Somalia is necessary to ensure safe delivery of UN relief supplies to starving people.

Seyoum said, "The role of UN armed personnel should limit itself to assisting the smooth distribution of UN relief assistance to needy people."

He warned that if UN peacekeepers overstep that function by way of an armed intervention, it would not only prolong the Somali conflict but trigger the breakup of a country gripped by intertribal rivalries.

"The international community could act as a catalyst encouraging the Somali warring factions to resolve their own problem through peaceful means, through a roundtable dialogue," Seyoum said.

His comments came a week after the United States offered up to 30,000 soldiers to get food and other aid to tens of thousands of starving Somalis and expressed readiness to use force if necessary.

Rival Somali clans have reportedly disrupted or seized Western aid to starving Somalis many times. Gunmen from one clan shelled a UN-chartered ship carrying wheat as it tried to enter a Somalian port, according to news reports.

Seyoum said no outside forces can stop the killings in Somalia, even through a full-fledged armed intervention, as the hostilities stem from ethnic rivalries between different clans and subclans.

He appealed to Japan to step up coordination with the international community in providing assistance to both Ethiopians displaced from their homes during Ethiopia's 17-year civil war and Somalian refugees.

The transitional Ethiopian Government, made up of former rival factions after the 1991 overthrow of President Mengistu Haile Mariam, will continue cooperating with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata to help feed the nation's 8 million refugees, he said.

Pact With Australian Bank To Promote Exports

OW3011042692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0334 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan announced Monday a pact with its Australian counterpart on cofinancing, credit, and insurance guarantees aimed at promoting exports by Japanese and Australian companies.

The agreement between the Ex-Im Bank of Japan and Australia's Export Finance and Insurance Corp. is primarily designed for cooperative financing projects in developing countries, the bank said.

The government-financed bank said it expects the new deal to help promote cooperation between the two institutions as well as between Japanese and Australian companies.

The Ex-Im Bank of Japan signed a similar agreement with the U.S. Export-Import Bank last March.

Former Sagawa Kyubin President Loses Appeal

OW2611002592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0006 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The Tokyo High Court late Wednesday [25 Nov] turned down an appeal by the former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. to quash a lower court decision that he can be questioned on a scandal centering on the company at the detention house where he is being held.

The Tokyo District Court gave the go-ahead to a Diet panel earlier Wednesday to question Hiroyasu Watanabe, former head of the now-defunct parcel delivery firm, at Tokyo detention house on his alleged involvement in the scandal, which involves illegal political donations and the alleged use of mobsters to prevent harassment of a top politician.

Watanabe has been held at the detention house during his trial on charges of aggravated breach of trust for causing huge losses to the company.

Former ruling Liberal Democratic Party Vice President Shin Kanemaru received 500 million yen in illicit donations from Watanabe and allegedly asked the head of a crime syndicate through Watanabe to suppress a rightist group's smear campaign against former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in 1987, when Takeshita was running for the LDP presidency.

The questioning of Watanabe is expected to be held at 3 P.M. Thursday following Takeshita's scheduled testimony in the Diet on Thursday morning.

Justice Minister Rules Out Sagawa Intervention

OW3011062392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0603 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—Justice Minister Takashi Tawara said Monday that he has ruled out any political intervention in prosecutors' investigation into the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal and has not tried to direct their handling of the case.

Tawara, presenting the ministry's interim report on prosecutors' investigation of the case to the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives, said, "prosecutors have handled the issue properly according to the law and justice from a standpoint of being strict, fair and impartial."

The interim report failed, however, to reveal any fresh information about the scandal.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) joined other opposition parties Monday in submitting a resolution demanding that former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita resign from the Diet after being summoned to testify in the House of Councillors.

Takeshita, testifying before the House of Representatives Budget Committee as a sworn witness last Thursday, denied that mobsters were involved in his becoming president of the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and thus prime minister, in 1987.

In Monday's budget committee session, the head of the Justice Ministry's Criminal Affairs Bureau, Kunihisa Hama, said prosecutors are still investigating what happened to a donation of 500 million yen which former LDP kingpin Shin Kanemaru admitted receiving from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

Kanemaru quit the Diet in October after admitting violating the political funds control law by accepting the money from the former president of the now-defunct trucking firm, Hiroyasu Watanabe.

Hama said there was no evidence of other politicians' involvement in receiving illegal political funds from Watanabe, except Kanemaru and the former governor of Niigata Prefecture, Kiyoshi Kaneko. He said prosecutors "could not find facts sufficient to indict (others) on charges of violating the law."

Kaneko, accused of receiving 100 million yen from the trucking firm, resigned as Niigata governor in September.

Asked about public criticism over prosecutors' filing a summary indictment against Kanemaru without questioning him, Hama said the prosecutors regarded a statement provided by Kanemaru admitting accepting the money as sufficient to indict him.

Mankichi Kato of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) demanded that Masahisa Haibara, a former secretary to Kanemaru, be summoned to the current Diet session to testify as a sworn witness to look into what happened to the 500 million yen Kanemaru accepted.

Kanemaru told a parliamentary panel that questioned him at his hospital bedside last Friday that he does not know how the money was spent because Haibara was in charge of funds.

Justice Minister Tawara said the ministry should think how to restore the reputation of third parties whose names were mentioned during court sessions.

The LDP's Shizuka Kamei urged the ministry to take measures to restore the honor of some LDP members whose names were mentioned in witnesses' depositions as having tried to stop a right-wing group's harassment of Takeshita in 1987.

The depositions, read by a prosecutor in the Tokyo District Court in early November, said seven LDP members made efforts, either directly or indirectly, to stop the 1987 smear campaign against Takeshita by a right-wing group called Nihon Kominto (Emperor's Subjects Party of Japan). Takeshita was at that time vying for the LDP presidency.

Among the seven were Kanemaru and LDP Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Yoshiro Mori.

Many of the LDP members mentioned denied their involvement in stopping the group's harassment, which involved blaring ironic praise of Takeshita from loudspeaker vans around the Diet building.

In his testimony last Thursday, Takeshita said he did not ask for help from Susumu Ishii, the late leader of the Inagawa-kai underworld syndicate, to stop the harassment. He also said he has no intention of giving up his Diet seat because of the allegations.

Tokyo Sagawa's Watanabe, acting upon a request from Kanemaru, sent a request to gang boss Ishii to stop the smear campaign against Takeshita, prosecution sources said.

According to Watanabe's deposition, he, Ozawa, Kanemaru and Takeshita met in a hotel room in early October 1987 and decided that Takeshita should visit the home of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, as demanded by the Nihon Kominto rightwing group as a condition to stop the anti-Takeshita campaign.

Tanaka, once known as "shogun in the shadow" for displaying enormous political clout, is considered to be Takeshita's political mentor. The rightist group says it cannot tolerate Takeshita becoming LDP leader without paying any greetings to his one-time mentor Tanaka, from whom he inherited most of Tanaka's faction, the largest within the LDP.

Kanemaru, responding to his bedside questioning last Friday, said he does not remember anything about the meeting because he was drunk at the time.

Takeshita also denied any knowledge of Watanabe's request for mobsters' involement at the meeting, only saying he had an "impression" that the suggestion for him to visit Tanaka's home had something to do with stopping the harassment.

Takeshita told the parliamentary panel that he first learned of the involvement of the mobsters in stopping Nihon Kominto's harassment in December 1988, when he was prime minister.

Kanemaru, who was Takeshita's chief political backer in the 1987 LDP presidential race, said he dined with Ishii and Watanabe on December 23, 1988 offering thanks to Ishii's efforts to help quell the rightwing harassment campaign.

Takeshita Testimony Said Full of Contradictions

OW2711025692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0231 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Editorials in Japan's leading daily newspapers charged Friday that Diet testimony Thursday by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita was full of contradictions and called for a deeper probe into the latest money-and-mob scandal.

The editorials criticized Takeshita for being evasive during the two-hour questioning before the House of Representatives Budget Committee, but also found fault with opposition party legislators for leaving a number of questions obscured in ambiguity.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN said the Diet questioning and television's showing of still pictures to accompany the live sound broadcast of the proceedings left the impression that Takeshita was trying to hide something concerning the 1987 events that led to his becoming prime minister.

The ASAHI also said that recent testimony before the Diet has been manipulated by both the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties, leaving relevant questions as clouded as before.

This manner of testimony has become a "low comedy" of the ruling party and has invited the distrust of the public in politics, the ASAHI said.

Insisting that the Diet has a duty to uncover the facts of this stain on Japanese politics, the ASAHI called for renewed questioning of the relevant characters in the scandal and proper broadcasts of the testimony.

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN raised questions about an October 1987 meeting between Takeshita, former LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru, former party Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, and Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., the now-defunct trucking company at the center of the scandal.

It was allegedly at this meeting that the LDP leaders decided to enlist the help of the head of the Inagawa-kai underworld syndicate to halt a harassment campaign against Takeshita by a rightist group using loudspeaker vans to blare ironic praise of him.

The MAINICHI questioned Takeshita's ambiguous testimony on Thursday and his refusal to resign his Diet seat because, he said, it would imply that gangsters had been involved in the establishment of his government.

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN said Thursday's testimony "will not contribute to the establishment of a healthy political system in the future."

It urged the Diet to find out the truth about the alleged link between the Takeshita government and gangsters, but said the purpose of the Diet exercise "should have been to come up with measures to prevent the recurrence of such scandals."

The YOMIURI, Japan's largest national daily, also called for the creation of a special committee to conduct a comprehensive investigation and then establish measures for eliminating the influence of gangsters from politics.

It ended with an appeal to the Diet to get on with the business of government.

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN focused on the contradictions in Takeshita's testimony and worried that the influence of gangsters and rightists in the formation of the Takeshita administration could only result in damage to international trust in Japan.

The leading economic daily said Thursday's testimony should be considered only a first step and urged the Diet to pursue its questioning of Takeshita and others to bring out the truth.

Dietman Apologizes to Takeshita for Allegations

OW3011131492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—Masaru Urata, a Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) member of the House of Councillors, on Monday retracted an earlier statement accusing former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita of perjury and apologized to him.

"I found I had misunderstood after recalling the events of those days," Urata said in a statement, after having earlier accused Takeshita of giving false testimony.

Takeshita testified as a sworn witness at the Diet on Thursday over his alleged involvement in the money-and-mobster Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal and said he had not written a memo pledging loyalty to former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka before the 1987 LDP presidential election.

Urata earlier said he saw Takeshita write the memo at a Japanese restaurant in Tokyo in late September 1987 just before the LDP presidential election was officially proclaimed on October 8.

In the alleged memo, Takeshita promised to defend Tanaka, his political mentor and founder of the LDP's largest faction.

Takeshita formed a study group called Sosei-kai in February 1985 within the Tanaka faction and formed his own faction named Keisei-kai in July 1987, splitting the Tanaka faction.

Tanaka, who was arrested in July 1976 for taking 500 million yen in bribes from Lockheed Corp. of the United States, lost his political influence after he suffered a cerebral infarction in 1985.

At the time Takeshita allegedly wrote the memo promising to support Tanaka, he badly needed the endorsement of former Tanaka faction members to win the election. [passage omitted]

Opposition Demands Takeshita's Summoning Again

OW3011154792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1524 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, dec. 1 KYODO—The opposition camp demanded Monday that former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita again be summoned to testify as a sworn witness in the House of Representatives over the money-and-mobster Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

The Social Democratic Party, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party also demanded the summoning to the Diet of Masahisa Haibara, secretary of disgraced kingpin Shin Kanemaru, and Rekiji Kobari, president of the Fukushima Kotsu Bus Company.

The opposition parties made the demand at a meeting of directors of the lower house's budget committee, party officials said.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the opposition camp are moving toward a compromise plan on summoning Haibara to the lower house and will continue discussions on the testimony issue even after the supplementary budget passes through the lower house, the sources said.

The current extraordinary Diet session ends on December 8.

Komeito Party Officials Criticized at Convention

OW2711123292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Leaders of the country's No. 2 opposition party Komeito came under a barrage of criticism Friday from over a proposal to link up with other opposition parties.

The criticism surfaced at the party's annual two-day party convention, which closed later in the day. The convention discussed what political strategy the party should adopt in the face of public wrath over a series of political scandals involving conservative politicians.

Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa told the convention, "Banding together new political forces with the same ideals and goals is the only method to improve politics in Japan."

Ichikawa said that some opposition parties should form an alliance with a view to eventually establishing a new political party. He did not specify which parties should band together.

However, many delegates to the convention criticized the coalition proposal for harboring the possibility of a Komeito break-up if the party were to lose its long-time friendly ties with the governing Liberal Democratic Party.

At a news conference that followed the convention, Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida defended Ichikawa's proposal, saying it represented a consensus among the party's top officials.

Ishida said that unless the party summons up a readiness to disband itself, the Japanese political community would not be able to start debate to create a fresh political tendency.

However, he tried to placate critics of the proposal, saying the top officials "are not planning to (form such a coalition) immediately with specific opposition parties or groups."

The convention wound up its two days of debate by endorsing a proposal to keep Ishida and Ichikawa in the party's two senior positions.

Poll Taken on Support for Miyazawa's Cabinet

OW2711001492 Tokyo KYODO in English 2343 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Public support for the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has fallen by 3 percentage points in the past month to 20.1 percent, reflecting public frustration with the cabinet's handling of political reform and economic policies, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN said in a poll published Friday.

The YOMIURI, Japan's largest national daily, said its survey, conducted on November 21 and 22, shows the disapproval rating of Miyazawa's cabinet rose 2.4 percentage points to 68.0 percent.

The government's inability to implement stricter political ethics and political reform topped the list of reasons for disapproving of the cabinet, the newspaper said.

A delay in implementing an economic stimulus program was second, being cited by 39.7 percent, up 6.5 percentage points, the YOMIURI survey shows.

Support for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party also dipped 3.3 percentage points from October to 37.6

percent, and the support rate of the largest opposition Social Democratic Party remained unchanged at 13.2 percent.

The approval rating of the government of Prime Minister Sousuke Uno in 1989 fell to a low of 22.8 percent.

Early Returns Indicate Incumbent Governors Win

OW2911115892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1138 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO—Early returns show two incumbent governors won Sunday's gubernatorial elections in Tochigi and Mie Prefectures.

Fumio Watanabe, the governor of Tochigi Prefecture, won a landslide victory for a third term.

The 63-year-old Watanabe, supported by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), trounced Kenji Okamura, 62, who had the backing of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP).

Formerly vice minister for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, Watanabe was first elected governor of Tha prefecture, north of Tokyo, in 1984.

In the gubernatorial race, Watanabe collected 8,009 votes with 2 percent of the votes counted, compared with 824 votes for runner-up Okamura.

In Mie Prefecture, central Japan, Ryozo Tagawa, 73, backed by the LDP, the SDP, Komeito and the DSP, was elected to a sixth term in the governor's race, beating JCP-supported Shigeru Suzuki, 64, chief of a prefectural network group of childcare organizations.

Tagawa claimed 835 votes with 1 percent of the votes counted, while Suzuki gathered 267 votes.

New Rules To Give Liquidity to Large Credits

OW2711141192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—The Finance Ministry will revise its ordinances and issue notices December 1 to give liquidity to large credits through a trust system, ministry officials said Friday.

The system makes it possible to divide large credits into small lots for sale to institutional investors and allows Japanese banks to meet the Bank for International Settlements' minimum capital adequacy standards by decreasing their total assets, they said.

The standards require all banks operating internationally to achieve a minimum 8 percent ratio of net worth to total assets by March 1993.

The officials said the new rules call for a direct or indirect trust system.

The direct method allows banks to leave the management of their large credits to trust banks, which divide them into small lots, with a minimum value of 100 million yen, for sale to institutional investors.

The indirect method allows life insurance companies and other investors to buy large credits from banks and leave them in the care of trust banks.

At the end of September, large credits worth 2,277.5 billion yen were liquid but could not be divided into small lots for sale to investors.

Under the new system, beneficiary certificates from 100 million yen each will become available to investors, the officials said.

Central Bank: Money Market Fund Shortage in Dec

OW2711054192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0524 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—The money market will see a 5.46 trillion yen fund shortage in December, compared with a shortage of 8.65 trillion yen in December last year, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) said Friday.

The expected shortage is attributable to a shortage of 7 trillion yen stemming from a larger amount of bank note issues and a surplus of 1.54 trillion yen in the government's fiscal fund transactions with the private sector, BOJ officials said.

The massive issuance of bank notes is aimed at meeting strong demand for funds among business corporations for bonus payments and year-end and new year requirements.

The projected 1.54 trillion yen surplus in the government's fiscal fund transactions with the private sector, meanwhile, is attributed to a larger redemption of government bonds.

Kato Views Revising Small Savings Tax Exemption

OW2811093692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0815 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Hiroshi Kato, head of the tax commission, said Saturday he will oppose raising the ceiling on small savings tax exemption for the elderly, the handicapped, and fatherless families.

Kato, professor at Keio University and chairman of the government's advisory panel, said in an interview with KYODO News Service such a step is theoretically wrong since it will expand unfairness. The tax commission is scheduled to begin full-fledged discussions on a revision of the tax system on Tuesday.

A demand for raising the ceiling for the elderly, the handicapped, and fatherless families has gained ground within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party as the nation struggles to overcome a drawn out economic slump.

The small savings tax exemption system, known as "maruyu," also has come under criticism from some quarters for benefiting the rich.

Kato said yielding to such demands will only stimulate the flow of funds into savings at a time when the domestic economy is undergoing a slowdown.

Kato said he will take a flexible stance regarding a demand for the restoration of extraordinary tax exemption for those who acquire new houses through selling old ones. He said the measure is unacceptable in principle but may be restored if strict conditions are attached.

The commission is expected to review the matter in parallel with discussions by the ruling party, he said.

He said the commission is expected to decide on an easing of the tax burden for those subject to the fixed assets tax.

Kato said it would be difficult to carry out an income tax cut in the next fiscal year in view of revenue shortfalls. He said the matter should be discussed in the following year. Kato suggested a possibility of raising tobacco and liquor taxes while the introduction of new taxes on volatile and gas oil transactions will be discussed by the commission as a means to generate funds for road construction.

Final Talks Set for Fiscal 1993 Tax Reform

OW2711104892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0958 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Final discussion for tax reforms in fiscal 1993 will kick off next Tuesday with the government and ruling party separately holding general meetings of their study panels.

Attention is on issues over which the two panels are split, such as a revival of special tax breaks for housing replacements, a higher ceiling for exemptions of interest on senior citizens' savings, and hikes in tobacco and alcohol taxes.

The government's Tax Commission and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's research council on the tax system will each draw up their draft packages of reform proposals around December 17.

The special tax treatment on housing replacements was abolished in 1988 because it caused a land price boom.

The Construction Ministry is calling for its revival with stricter conditions, like setting the ceiling of liquidation prices at 200 million yen and limiting it to housing held for more than 10 years.

Ruling party legislators led by construction experts are increasingly supporting revival of the tax break.

The Finance Ministry strongly objects, with Vice Minister Mamoru Ozaki telling reporters it may rekindle the "bubble" economic boom.

On the exemption for the elderly, Hideo Watanabe, minister of posts and telecommunications, has said he wants realized his ministry's request to raise the ceiling to 7 million yen from the current 3 million yen "even at the cost of my post."

Kabun Muto, chairman of the LDP's panel, has expressed support, but the government commission's subcommittee has issued a report objecting that a higher exemption will only benefit wealthy senior citizens.

With the Finance Ministry strongly opposing an income tax cut proposed by opposition parties and business leaders, higher levy rates on tobacco and alcohol are likely to become its last-minute argument for dealing with the fiscal reserve shortage and avoid issuing deficit-covering bonds.

The Finance Ministry is considering proposing a hike of 0.50 yen to 1 yen for a cigarette, and is reportedly waiting for an appropriate time to lift taxes on alcohol.

It would be the first tax increase on tobacco and alcohol since 1986 and 1984, respectively.

Among other issues, higher gasoline and fuel oil taxes proposed by the Construction Ministry for road project fund reserves are facing strong objections from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and concerned industry sectors.

On a fixed assets tax already decided to raise appraisal amounts to some 70 percent of declared value in fiscal 1994 from the current rate of about 40 percent, the Ministry of Home Affairs is considering expanding the adjustment period for wild price gyrations to ease taxpayer burden.

Concerned industries are calling for the same treatment of commercial land.

Tough discussions are also expected regarding the land value tax introduced this fiscal year on whether to leave the levy rate unchanged at 0.2 percent or to raise it to 0.3 percent as originally planned.

Business Leaders Urge Income Tax Reduction

OW3011034592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0253 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—The head of the Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren) called Monday for an income tax reduction with a view to boosting private consumption and the sluggish economy.

During a morning gathering with Trade Minister Kozo Watanabe, Nikkeiren President Takeshi Nagano suggested that the government should consider an income tax reduction, officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

They quoted Nagano as saying that neither management nor labor can afford sound business operation under the current circumstances.

Other business leaders of Nikkeiren echoed the request for an income tax cut, the MITI officials said.

Watanabe replied that the issue should be handled carefully since it might raise the need for deficit-covering bonds, they said.

The minister suggested an income tax cut should be considered along with an overhaul of the whole taxation system, they said.

The business leaders also expressed concern about regulations under consideration to shorten working hours to 1,800 hours a year from the current average of over 2,000, contending such a move would adversely affect their management, the officials said.

Watanabe told the Nikkeiren delegates he would deliver their opinions to the Labor Ministry. The minister said companies should determine their working hours on their own judgment, the MITI officials said.

Ministry To Offer Subsidies to More Industries

OW3011111592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—The Labor Ministry has decided to offer subsidies to 27 industries, including silk textiles, bringing the total number of subsidized industries to 51, ministry officials said Monday.

The move will be effective from Tuesday for one year, they said.

The additional 27 industries cover some 43,000 firms and 463,000 employees, the officials said.

The subsidies are to be used for payments of a portion of employee wages and benefits.

Tax Revenues Said Lower Than Last Fiscal Year

OW3011082592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0740 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—Japan's tax revenues in October fell 6.1 percent from a year earlier, with the aggregate total so far for fiscal 1992 running 4.3 percent lower than the same period the previous year, the Finance Ministry said Monday.

The tax revenues for the central government's general account in October amounted to 2,941.6 billion yen, down 6.1 percent from the same month last year.

That brought the total so far for fiscal 1992, which began on April 1, to 19,970.9 billion yen, down 4.3 percent from the same period one year earlier.

The ministry is anticipating a 4.9 trillion yen tax revenue shortfall.

The revenue from income tax at the end of October dropped 4.4 percent from the year-earlier level to 10,847.9 billion yen.

The corporate tax revenue at the end of October plunged 24.9 percent due to the sluggish business conditions to 2,493.6 billion yen.

Inheritance tax revenue rose 6.5 percent to 1,019.6 billion yen, and consumption tax revenue also rose 52.9 percent to 1,288.5 billion yen due mainly to changes in payment systems.

The revenue from liquor tax edged up 0.1 percent to 920.1 billion yen.

A ministry official said the underlying tax revenue trend remained weak.

The aggregate total through October accounted for 32.0 percent of the revised fiscal 1992 tax revenue estimate of 62,504 billion yen.

The ministry official said tax revenues for fiscal 1993, which begins April 1, 1993, will decline further from the current fiscal year.

MITI Chief Urges Wage Hikes To Help Economy

OW0112043192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0311 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO—Companies should give their employees generous wage increases next spring to help boost consumer demand and the economy, International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe indicated Tuesday.

Watanabe said at a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting that Japan has a massive trade surplus and hinted that the management of companies that benefit from this should make a "drastic investment in personnel."

Watanabe stressed the need for investment in employees, as well as in plant and equipment and technological innovation, noting that the government has done its part with the 10.7 trillion yen economic stimulus package to pump-prime the private sector.

Referring to the ratio of job vacancies to job seekers, which fell below the 1.0 line in October for the first time since may 1988, Watanabe said it showed that companies can no longer afford to continue their previous policy of having a certain surplus of employees.

The ratio dropped to a seasonally adjusted 0.96 in October, meaning there were more people seeking jobs than openings available and marking the 19th straight monthly decline, the Labor Ministry said in a monthly report released Tuesday.

Watanabe suggested that economic recovery was the fundamental remedy for the slackening labor market, saying, "the question is how to push up the economy, which is reaching its nadir."

He added, though, that it is up to the labor ministry to take countermeasures to the falling job openings ratio.

Special Panel Approves Bill To Relocate Diet

OW2711043092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0341 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—A bill paving the way for the relocation of the Diet away from Tokyo received an overwhelming vote of approval from a special panel of the House of Representatives on Friday.

The bill was immediately sent to the full lower house, which is expected to pass it with little opposition early next week before sending it to the House of Councillors.

Sources within the legislature predicted that the bill will be enacted during the current Diet session.

During the special lower house panel's deliberations on Thursday, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said his government will make all-out efforts to shift the heavy concentration of political activities in Tokyo.

The bill is jointly sponsored by the governing Liberal Democratic Party and the opposition Social Democratic Party, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party. Only the Japanese Communist Party is opposed to it.

Okinawa Governor Comments on Airport Site Plans

OW2611143492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Naha, Nov. 26 KYODO—Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota said Thursday the prefecture plans to build an airport on Ishigaki Island on inland farmland, ending a 13-year row on selection of the site.

Ota told a press conference he chose the Miyara-Makinaka area in the southeastern part of the island for the 140-hectare airport after "synthetically judging preservation of nature and local society."

The prefecture will begin negotiating with landowners and make specific plans to seek funds from the national government, he said.

Okinawa Prefecture launched the project to build the airport in 1979. Three areas—Miyara, Fusakino, and east of Mount Karadake—have been considered as possible sites.

The plans sparked international concern that the construction might destroy the world-famous blue coral unique to the area, forcing the authorities to make several reviews about the site.

Ota said choosing the Miyara-Makinaka area was "hard, considering the farmers' love for the land," and he will continue to make efforts to gain understanding from locals.

The governor said the plan to build the airport near Mount Karadake was dropped because the coral is an "asset not only for Japan but for the world."

Ishigaki Island, some 400 kilometers south of the main island of Okinawa, is known for its tropical climate and rare blue coral reef. The 221-square-kilometer island has been targeted for development as a marine sports resort.

Ota, elected in 1990 on a reformist ticket, has opposed the Mount Karadake site because of the expected impact on the reefs.

But the Ishigaki Municipal Assembly and many local citizens favor the site.

North Korea

White Paper Reveals 'Atrocities' of U.S. Soldiers

SK2911005592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2241 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—The National Reunification Institute published a white paper exposing part of the atrocities committed by U.S. soldiers in South Korea in recent years with the case of murder of a South Korean woman, Yun Kum-i, which took place in Tongduchon, Kyonggi Province, as an occasion.

According to the white paper, the criminal cases of the U.S. forces in South Korea have numbered more than 100,000 since their occupation (September, 1945), counting only big ones, nearly 20,000 of them since the 1980s.

The atrocities of the U.S. Army is an inevitable outcome of the U.S. military occupation of South Korea and colonial rule over it, stemming from the nature of Yankee cannibals who feel thrill at slaughter and violence, imbued to the marrow with the idea of man-hating and national extermination.

Even according to a South Korean newspaper report, the criminal cases of U.S. soldiers in recent years have more than trebled as compared with 20 years ago.

The more than 18,000 "comfort women" for the U.S. soldiers, most of the 2 million prostitutes, over 80,000 women who suffered domestic discords, hundreds of thousands of AIDS [Aqcuired Immunodeficiency Syndrome] cases and the birth of more than 10,000 bastards every year in South Korea—all this is a direct outcome of the U.S. Army's crimes.

U.S. soldiers would beat and kick guiltless people till they are soaked with blood for no reason, sometimes commit group assaults not infrequently.

On February 19, 1988, some 30 U.S. soldiers belonging to the U.S. Army oil supply base stopped a street car in Sam Street in Tuho-tong, Pohang, North Kyongsang Province and put a knife on the throat of Yu Sang-pok, the driver, 37, and forced him to drive them to the destination, where they beat him to a jelly with jackboots, trampling him underfoot en masse. (South Korean newspaper TONG-A ILBO, February 20, 1988, and SEOUL SINMUN, February 21, 1988).

The U.S. occupation troops in South Korea did not hesitate to shoot people to death for fun's sake, even to massacre guiltless people by brandishing guns.

In June, 1981 a U.S. soldier at a U.S. military base levelled and fired an M-16 rifle at five South Korean people, regarding them as targets for a test fire, thus killing four on the spot and injuring the other. (Voice of America, June 6th, 1981).

A U.S. private 1st Class was trying to take to the barracks Ho Chong-ae, a 34 year-old woman, working at the oil tanker depot of the U.S. airforce base in Songtan on April 5, 1986, when her fellow workers rushed to the scene upon hearing her shriek and the brute fired his M-16 rifle and a flame thrower on them, killing in cold blood 15 workers and seriously wounding 12 others. (local report of the Koryo fellowship society of development workers for ecological survey of U.S. forces).

U.S. soldiers are brutally murdering South Korean women after rape, or gang rape.

On the night of October 4, 1981, Gregory, a private belonging to the U.S. 8th Army, took Kim Yong-sun, 30, to an inn at Itaewon-tong, Yongsan District, Seoul and raped her before dropping her dead to the ground 13 metres from the window sill. (South Korean MBC, October 6, 1981).

On March 5, 1986, five or six soldiers of the artillery battalion of the U.S. 25th Division kidnapped and committed a gang rape against a school mistress surnamed Yi of the Pongyang primary school who had gone six months with child in Pongyang-myon, Jechon County, North Chungchong Province, before murdering her. (South Korean newspaper NODONGJA SINMUN, April 23, 1986).

A U.S. soldier raped an 8 year-old girl surnamed Kim in Songtan City, Kyonggi Province, on April 30, 1989. (South Korean CBS, May 1, 1989).

A U.S. private raped Choe Il-mo, a 9 year-old primary schoolgirl at Chilgok County, North Kyongsang Province, on January 8, 1991.

The U.S. troops freely address themselves to such brigandish acts as infringing upon the property of the South Korean population and looting at will.

On August 8, 1984, James Snor, a corporal, 20, and one other soldier belonging to the U.S. 8th Army robbed Ha Chae-su, a 37 year-old taxi chauffeur, of 8 million won in cash after threatening him with a lethal weapon at Itaewon-tong, Yongsan District, Seoul. (South Korean newspaper KYONGHYANG SINMUN, August 8, 1984).

U.S. soldiers participating in the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises in March 1985 threw a high-performance bomb into the sea off Sindok-tong, Yochon City, South Cholla Province, wreaking havoc with the fishing ground and killing six people including a woman named Kim Sun-nam who were picking up shellfishes. (South Korean radio No.1, July 11, 1988).

The U.S. Army is also the chief culprit in the spread of AIDS and drugs.

The United States let a soldier who was listed at the U.S. Army camp in Kansas as a target of AIDS test scuttle in South Korea during the "Team Spirit 86" joint military exercises, thus infecting many South Korean women with AIDS. (South Korean newspaper CHUNGANG ILBO, March 26, 1986).

In 1984, five U.S. soldiers including a Sergeant R. Eugens were caught while trafficking 10 kilograms of philopon worth one billon won in South Korean currency for three years with those around the U.S. military base and discotheques in Taegu. (South Korean newspaper KYONGHYANG SINMUN, June 21, 1984).

Even according to doctored figure released by the South Korean puppet tax agency, the cases of drug and other valuables trafficking by the U.S. soldiers in South Korea, Katusas and their families numbered 420 and their appropriations amounted to 1,367 million won in 1981, and 472 cases and 1,328 million won in 1983, more than 400 cases on an annual average. (South Korean newspaper HANGYORE SINMUN, January 14, 1989).

The ever more rampant atrocities of U.S. soldiers in South Korea are attributable to the fact that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities back their crimes by "law."

The criminal cases of U.S. troops in South Korea in the 1981-1989 period numbered 16,666, but it was only 61 cases out of them over which the South Korean authorities exercised "jurisdiction," yet they hushed them up. (South Korean MBC, January 5, 1991).

The white paper expresses the belief that all the Koreans in the North and the South and abroad and the world's progressive people who love justice and truth will pay due attention to the criminal atrocities of the U.S. forces in South Korea and strongly denounce them and render more positive support and encouragement to the South Korean people in their struggle to drive out the U.S. forces from South Korea and achieve independence, democracy and reunification.

KCNA Reports Alleged 'Air Espionage' by U.S.

SK2911095592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0808 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 29 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors concentrically mobilized Army tactical reconnaissance planes of different types in November to conduct air espionage against the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

The U.S. imperialists sent "U-2" high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane and other tactical reconnaissance planes of different types to the sky above the Military Demarcation Line to spy out the targets in the strategic depth and the coastal and front lines of the northern half of Korea on November 28 and conducted electronic reconnaissance of the whole area of the northern half of Korea on November 27.

They conducted air espionage on the northern half of Korea on some 200 occasions in November with "U-2" high-altitude reconnaissance plane, AWACS "E-3", "EH-60s", "RV-1" and other tactical reconnaissance planes of the Army.

Kim Il-song Sends Wreath to Kaysone Phomvihan's Bier

SK2811231292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2250 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song sent a wreath to the bier for the late Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutonary Party and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

A DPRK party and government delegation on a visit to Laos laid the wreath before the bier of the late Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan on November 27.

On the same day, the DPRK party and government delegation headed by Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the DPRK, visited the bier of the late Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan to express condolences and leave letters in the mourners' book.

The delegation met the members of the State Funeral Committee of the late Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan and bereaved family of the deceased and expressed deep condolences.

Kim Il-song Sends 'Arafat 'Solidarity' Message

SK2811110492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a solidarity message to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, on the occasion of the "day of world solidarity with the Palestinian people".

The message noted that the Palestine people are now vigorously struggling to retake the usurped territories and found the state of Palestine with Quds [Jerusalem] as its capital under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative.

The Korean people stand firm on the side of the fighting Palestinian people and will fully support the just cause of restoring all legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, stressed the message.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two peoples will grow stronger and develop, the message wholeheartedly wished the president and the Palestinian people greater success in their struggle for the accomplishment of the cause of Palestine.

President Kim Il-song Greets Albanian President

SK2711121792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 27 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Thursday sent a message of greetings to Sali Berisha, president of the Republic of Albania, on the occasion of the national holiday of Albania.

Wishing the president and the people of Albania success in their work for the stability and prosperity of the country, President Kim Il-song in the message expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the two peoples would develop.

NODONG SINMUN Criticizes U.S. Rapid Deployment Force

SK2811110292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article condemning the move of the United States to deploy the "rapid deployment and deterrent combat force" in South Korea.

Recalling that at a military confab with the South Korean military bosses in Washington in October last the United States decided to deploy the "rapid deployment and deterrent combat force" in South Korea before "emergency" on the Korean peninsula, the article says:

This shows that the United States will continue stepping up the reinforcement of "mobile combat force" with an emphasis on the "rapid deployment and deterrent combat force" in the Korean peninsula.

The "quick reaction strategy" of the United States is, in essence, a strategy of aggressive armed intervention and war to make a forestalling attack any time upon those countries which it unofficially chose as its operation targets.

The United States says that if there is a "crisis" in the Korean peninsula the "rapid deployment and deterrent combat force" with the air force and naval combat force as the main will be deployed there in advance to "bring the situation under control" and defend the "security of South Korea".

But its real intention is to massively mobilize air and naval forces and ground mobile task force considered technically superior and make a surprise military attack upon the whole area of the DPRK from ground, sea and air.

The United States has no ground or pretext to deploy the "rapid deployment and deterrent combat force" in South Korea.

The United States should cancel the steps for deploying the "rapid deployment and deterrent combat force" in South Korea and resuming the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and pull all nuclear and other lethal weapons and U.S. troops out of South Korea.

NODONG SINMUN Credits Party Success to Leader Succession

SK2811104292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 28 Nov 92

["Ours is Great Party Which Has Gained Precious Experiences in Building of Ruling Party Under Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—The Workers' Party of Korea has performed undying feats in strengthening and developing revolutionary parties of our age and completing socialism by accumulating priceless experiences in the building of a ruling party under socialism, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"In the course of hewing out the thorny path of revolution our party has gained rich experiences and discovered many new revolutionary truths. I think that all the successes attained by our party in the revolution and construction are the common gain of the international working class and that the revolutionary experiences and truths we have learned make a positive contribution to the revolutionary theory of the working class."

To build a powerful ruling party under socialism is a fundamental matter arising in triumphantly advancing and accomplishing the socialist cause.

The precious experience gained by our party in building a ruling party under socialism finds expression, first of all, in that it has made persistent efforts to lay its organizational and ideological foundations.

In the period of accomplishing the cause of party building and also in the period of taking the power and guiding socialism, our party raised it as a fundamental matter in party building to consolidate its organizational and ideological foundations and has solved the matter on the highest level.

Since it has made tremendous achievements in consolidating those foundations, our party has been able to successfully guide the socialist cause, enjoying absolute prestige as the ruling party.

The precious experience of our party in building a powerful ruling party under socialism also finds expression in that it has laid its solid mass foundations.

What is important in our party's activities for consolidating mass foundations is that it has made strenuous efforts to get rid of bureaucratism and the old working style and working method from the days when it took power.

Our party set forth excellent slogans "We serve the people!" and "Let the whole party go among the masses!" for the first time in history.

Through the energetic activities for the consolidation of the mass foundations, our party has become an invincible party which has rallied around itself the people steadfast in the class stand and with a high revolutionary spirit.

The precious experience of our party is also found in that it has made consistent efforts to strengthen itself and establish chuche in keeping with the requirements of our age, while keeping to the revolutionary essence of the theory on the building of a working-class party.

Our party, first of all, raised it as an important principle in revolutionary party building to strengthen itself and educate the people in a revolutionary manner and has always adhered to it.

It also indicated a revolutionary principle of establishing chuche in party building and party activities and set an example in fully applying it.

Our party has solved all the theoretical and practical issues arising in the building of a powerful party and in socialist construction always with its own efforts and the chuche-oriented stand, not allowing other parties' experience to be introduced blindly. Such steadfast stand of our party is concentrically reflected in the slogans "Let us live our own way!" and "Let us meet the requirements of chuche in ideology, technology and culture!"

Our party has strengthened and developed to be a powerful ruling party under socialism and performed signal, undying feats in the efforts to constantly develop socialism and gained priceless experience in this course. The key to all these successes lies in that it has properly solved the question of inheriting the leadership, the article declares.

Daily Stresses Power Production, Conservation

SK2811080192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0011 GMT 27 Nov 92

[NODONG SINMUN 27 November editorial: "Let Us More Vigorously Wage the Struggle For Electric Power Production and Conservation"]

[Text] Presently, it is very significant to actively accelerate overall socialist economic construction to vigorously carry out the struggle to increase electric power and to economize power to the maximum.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: All sectors and units of the people's economy should intensify the struggle for conservation as well as increase production, so as to prevent even the smallest amount of things from running to waste.

Electric power is a basic energy for production. Only when we concentrate efforts on the electric power industry and firmly put it above all other sectors, can we actively accelerate production and construction and remarkably improve the people's standard of living.

A constant and sufficient supply of electric power to many modern plants and enterprises that have been built makes it possible to normalize production at a high level.

All party members and working people across the country are now vigorously carrying out the last struggle to brilliantly fulfill the meaningful economic task of the year.

To intensify the struggle for electric production and conservation is very significant in effecting greater upsurge in production and construction and brilliantly decorating this meaningful year, by efficiently utilizing the production potential of the economic basis that has already been prepared.

Our party recently posed that increasing production of electric power as well as increasing coal, iron, and steel production is one of the basic keys to which we should adhere in order to accelerate economic construction and clearly elucidate the way and method of the struggle to implement it.

Upholding the party's militant appeal, functionaries and working people at the electric power industry sector and all other sectors and units of the people's economy should unanimously launch into the struggle to increase electric power production and to economize it.

To do so, all functionaries and working people, with high degree of consciousness of the fact that they are masters of production and national economy, should be more ideologically mobilized to the struggle to implement the party's demand to smoothly solve electric power problems.

Our people are heroic people implementing the party's grand plan, with the rock-firm faith that what the party decides, we do. When our people, who can do whatever they decide to do under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, unanimously arise with the attitude of masters of the revolution, they can solve even better the electric power problems, to which our party attaches great importance in socialist economic construction, under the favorable conditions today.

All that matters is how our functionaries and working people meet the party's demand and how much they are mobilized ideologically and work with the attitude of masters.

All functionaries and working people at the electric power industry sector and all other sectors of the people's economy should ideologically receive the party's demand to increase electric power production and to economize produced power, and should work to intensify the struggle for electric power production and conservation at their own sectors and units with responsibility and the attitude of masters.

Above all, the electric power industry sector should effect a great upsurge in electric power production, by utilizing the current power production capacity to the maximum.

Many large, middle, and small power plants have been built all over our country under the party's wise leadership, and they have great production capacity. We can more smoothly meet the people's economic demand for electric power by fully operating only these power plants.

The electric power industry sector should properly manage power production facilities, a basic means of electric power production, so that they can be operated at full capacity.

For this, plans for facility rearrangement and repair should be correctly set up, and facility operators and repairmen should be encouraged to responsibly carry out rearrangement and repair work with high enthusiasm.

Sufficient coal supply to thermal power plants is one of the basic demands by power plants for the increase in electric power production.

Functionaries at relevant sectors should more specifically organize work for the smooth supply of coal to thermal power plants.

To guarantee sufficient coal supply to thermal power plants, mines which are required to adequately supply coal to thermal power plants should vigorously wage a struggle to normalize coal production at a high level.

The railroad transportation sector should plan and organize transportation work to freight coal to thermal power plants first.

Thermal power plants should pay a closer heed to coal yard management not to waste coal.

Building power plants is one of the important works on which our party is concentrating greatest efforts at present. Our party now demands that great efforts be devoted to advancing construction schedules for and putting into operation at the earliest possible date hydroelectric and thermal power stations, including Namgang Power Plant, Yongwon Power Plant, Haeju Thermal Power Plant, December Thermal Power Plant, and Tongpyongyang Thermal Power Plant, for which our party has already begun construction and made considerable progress.

All builders and People's Army soldiers mobilized for constructing power plants should be highly aware that they are builders responsible for an important sector which has a great significance in constructing socialism. They should highly display creative activeness and mass heroism and thus create the new speed of the nineties in construction.

In connection with construction of power plants, the relevant sectors and units should give fresh spur to production of power generation facilities and guarantee production of various kinds of power generation facilities in a timely and responsible manner, including large power generators, transformers, and boilers.

It is the party's demand to put boiler steam to use for power generation first and then for industry. Plants and enterprises in electric industry and machinery industry sectors and which have boilers should install turbine power generators and vigorously stage struggle to produce more electric power.

Electric power is extensively used in all sectors of national economy and all fields of people's life. Therefore, struggle to save electric power cannot be successfully carried by only a few functionaries of a certain sector or electric power industry sector. The electric power industry sector should thoroughly establish a management system regarding electric power process and strengthen repair and maintenance of electric power facilities, thus minimizing electric power leakage loss.

To organize alternative production well is an important method to most effectively use produced electric power. All sectors, areas, plants, and enterprises of the people's economy should plan and organize a better alternative production as demanded by the party and organize a reasonable shift system in conformity with their specific realities.

Plants and enterprises which have many electrolytic and electrothermal processes should carry out well the work to minimize electric power consumption criterion per product unit. They should use motors, transformers, and others that fit their capacities. Plants and enterprises should figure out a total production quantity and a required electric power consumption amount and actively find out ways to save electric power.

To reduce consumption of electric power for exclusive use and non-productive use has a very important significance in saving electric power. All plants and enterprises, social cooperative organizations, and households should use electric appliances and high-wattage electric bulbs only for required purposes and thoroughly establish a system to put out independent lights. At the same time, supervising and control organs should strengthen the work to supervise and control the use and management of electric power and thus make all the functionaries and working people ideologically respond to this work.

The party organizations of various echelons in all sectors of national economy, including the electric power industry sector, should explain and inculcate significance and importance of electric power production and its saving upon the functionaries and working people's minds, thus letting them maximize their present electric power capacities and actively accelerate constructions of power plants. The party organizations should let the functionaries organize electric power production and the work to save it in a responsible manner and lead them well, so that the functionaries could set examples and show by practice rather than by precept.

KCNA Reviews 30 November NODONG SINMUN

SK3011054592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Barbadian Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford on the 26th anniversary of the independence of Barbados.

Printed in the daily is a message to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, sent by Joao Amazonas, chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Brazilian Communist Party, denouncing the decision of the United States and the South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

Appearing in the daily is a report that the Rwandan Committee for the Study of the Chuche Idea published a statement supporting "on the fundamental questions of revolutionary party building", a classical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Conveyed there is what an Indian delegation for the study of the chuche idea said about his work.

An article of the daily conveys the story that Comrade Kim Chong-il took all steps and saved the crewmen and young Koreans in Japan aboard the ship Samjiyon from its critical situation caused by typhoon on October 26, 1980, which was recorded as "day of death" in the world history of sea transport.

The daily editorially calls for firmly adhering to and successfully carrying forward the traditions of establishing chuche.

It reports about a powerful work to lay raw material bases in cities and counties.

It informs the readers that Sariwon of Korea and Ouidah of Benin established the relations of friendship cities.

The daily carries news that the decision of the U.S. and South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" is under fire in different countries and the world public denounced the South Korean "government" as a marionette "regime" framed up by the U.S.

South Korean students struggled against Kim Yong-sam, says the daily.

It comes out with an article branding the South Korean "democratic liberal party regime" as a military fascist dictatorial "regime" and a heinous nation-splittist "regime".

The international solidarity movement supporting the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo is going on worldwide, reports the daily.

According to the daily, a newspaper and news agency of Singapore and Madagascar made public articles on the "comfort women for the army".

The daily runs a commentary hailing the recent adoption of a resolution submitted by Cuba at the U.N. General Assembly.

It reports that the president of the Presidential Council of Yemen appealed to strive for stability of the country, the Ugandan prime minister called upon agricultural scientists of the African continent to make efforts for self-sufficiency in food in the continent and the fourth U.N. General Assembly conference on protecting an ozone layer on the Earth was held.

The funeral and memorial service for Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane were held in Laos, says the daily.

The daily observes the 26th anniversary of the independence of Barbados.

It carries economic briefs from Iran, India, Thailand, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

An article of the daily says that AIDS has spread rapidly to be an internationally serious problem.

KCNA Reviews 28 November Pyongyang Press

SK2811070692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry messages of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to President Sali Berisha and President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya on the national holiday of Albania and on the independence day of Mauritania.

The Nepalese paper WORKERS-PEASANTS on Nov. 8 carried "With the Century", reminiscences of the great leader President Kim Il-song, says NODONG SINMUN.

According to it, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a letter of thanks to the party members and workers of the Aeguk Moran garment factory who have carried out their yearly plan and the third seven-year plan ahead of schedule and thanks to those who have built a big bridge in Tanchon city and to those units that helped the builders.

Conveyed in the press are what South Korean people said, highly revering President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il as the lodestar of national reunification.

NODONG SINMUN introduces historical relics and materials about solicitude shown by the party and the leader for intellectuals which are exhibited in the Korean revolutionary museum.

It deals with the exploit of the Workers' Party of Korea which has created valuable experience in building of a ruling party under socialism.

A Korean party and government delegation led by Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee [C.C.] and vice-president of DPRK, left Pyongyang Friday to attend the funeral of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, president of the C.C., the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, reports the press.

NODONG SINMUN conveys news of the beautiful traits of the unity between the army and people which has been fully displayed.

According to the press, the general secretary of the Moroccan Progress and Socialism Party met with the Korean Ambassador in Cairo and the Korean Ambassador to Lebanon paid a courtesy call on the president of the Socialist Progressive Party of Lebanon.

Given in the press is an account of the 11th meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee.

Printed in dailies is a white paper on some of the crimes committed by U.S. Army soldiers in South Korea in recent years which was published by the national reunification institute in connection with the murder of woman Yun Kum-i.

South Korean news of the press includes a report that the joint measure committee on the murder of Yun Kum-i called for an open trial of the murderer, a U.S. army soldier.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary hitting at the remarks of the South Korean chief executive that "External Obstacles to Unification Have Been Removed by the Promotion of the Northern Policy" with the U.S. imperialist aggression forces left in South Korea, and a signed article giving an analysis of the South Korean political situation which is getting acute with "presidential elections" in the offing.

The paper reports that the international liaison committee for reunification and peace in Korea sent to the regional and national committees for supporting Korea's reunification its information which calls upon them to actively mobilize all the world's peaceloving forces to check the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

A periodical of the Amnesty International exposed the fascist suppression in South Korea, says the press.

According to papers, the mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front in Syria in a press conference denounced the South Korean authorities for having faked up the "case of the Workers' Party of Korea in the South".

The press reports that an American university professor proposed the president-elect to drastically reduce U.S. forces in South Korea.

Given in NODONG SINMUN is news that the Pyongyang declaration "Let Us Defend and Advance the Cause of Socialism" was reported by Byelarus and Mozambican papers.

The daily carries an article introducing Mauritania on the occasion of its independence day and an account of the third summit of "G-15".

It in a signed article lashes out at the U.S. moves seeking to deploy "rapid deployment and deterrent convert force" in South Korea.

South Korea

IAEA Said To Uncover Unreported Nuclear Facilities in DPRK

SK0112141092 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] It has been revealed that North Korea has nuclear facilities which have not been reported. The concealed nuclear facilities were uncovered during the North Korea inspections conducted by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on four occasions. North Korea yesterday sent its minister of atomic energy industry to IAEA Secretary General Hans Blix, to clarify this. Reporter Cha Man-sun reports from Vienna:

[Begin Cha Man-sun recording] Choe Hak-kun, North Korean minister of atomic energy industry, O Chang-nim, roving ambassador, and four others visited IAEA Secretary General Hans Blix on the evening of 30 November and held talks for over two hours to discuss North Korea's sincere implementation of nuclear agreement in the presence of the IAEA inspector in charge of the North Korean nuclear inspections.

Photograph-taking was not allowed at the conference room and the content of the talks was not made public at all. According to specialists here, it is believed that during the talks, the secretary general notified North Korea of the new fact that North Korea has not reported some nuclear facilities, which was unveiled as a result of the inspections conducted on four occasions and urged it to sincerely implement the nuclear agreement.

According to these specialists, the IAEA attempted to send the special inspection team to North Korea right after the IAEA finished the fourth inspection of North Korea last month. However, North Korea refused this and instead a North Korean nuclear policy decision-maker met the secretary general just before the board of governors meeting for a report of the inspection results was convened. This proves that North Korea has concealed nuclear facilities.

In the meantime, the IAEA will send the fifth tentative inspection team to North Korea in the middle of this month and will conduct more comprehensive inspections. [end recording]

Ambassador Lodges Official Protest With Russia Over KAL Tapes

SK0112034392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0308 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—Seoul has protested to Moscow over the missing tapes from KAL-007's black box, demanding an explanation and a search for the tapes, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

South Korean Ambassador to Russia Hong Sun-yong met Monday with Yuriy Petrov, head of the presidential administration, and lodged a protest over the missing tapes from the flight data recorder (FDR), the officials said.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin handed over the black boxes, the FDR and the cockpit voice recorder [CVR], during his Seoul visit two weeks ago and what appeared to be their tapes.

It was found the FDR was empty and the CVR tapes were copies, some of them recorded backwards.

KAL flight 007 was shot down by a Soviet fighter over Sakhalin in 1983 after it strayed into Soviet airspace, killing all 269 people aboard.

Hong demanded an explanation for the missing tapes and asked that they be handed over.

He emphasized that the South Korean people's dissatisfaction was high over the missing FDR tapes and said that Moscow should explain and take appropriate measures so as not to damage Seoul-Moscow relations.

Officials said Hong will try to meet directly with Yeltsin.

Russian Source: Military Holds Tape

SK0112015092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0139 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Moscow, Nov. 30 (YONHAP)—The missing tape from the flight data recorder (FDR) of the Korean Air

Lines (KAL) jetliner shot down by a Soviet fighter in 1983 is still in the possession of the military, a Russian journalist claimed Monday.

The FDR tape from flight 007 was found missing only after Russian President Boris Yeltsin handed the plane's black boxes, the FDR and the cockpit voice recorder, to President No Tae-u when he visited South Korea two weeks ago.

Andrey Illesh, editorial writer of the IZVESTIYA newspaper, said he was able to confirm through a reliable Defense Ministry source that the FDR tape was being held secretly by a certain organization in a military unit stationed in Moscow.

In an interview with YONHAP News Agency, Illesh said he could not disclose the location of the military organization because of "delicate circumstances."

There had been heated discussions on the question of handing the black box to the South Korean Government within the Russian leadership right until Yeltsin's departure for South Korea, Illesh said.

Because of the differences of opinion, Yeltsin had asked his officials to bring all the materials to him and decided to bring the black box to Seoul at the last moment.

In the process, Yeltsin appears to have failed to realize that the tape was missing from the FDR, he said.

Illesh said he believed that the hardliners in the Russian military had strongly opposed the handing to South Korea of the FDR tape, which could provide a key to finding the technical cause of the KAL-007 incident.

"The Russian mistake" in failing to hand the FDR tape over to South Korea obviously resulted from the absence of a consistent policy with regard to the KAL-007 incident, he said.

Illesh said the KAL incident "contains" so many "political elements" that no one country involved in it could help clarify its cause alone.

The United States and Korea as well as Russia have to provide all pertinent materials and documents to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to let the ICAO determine what transpired in the incident with objectivity, he said.

Illesh also said the Soviet authorities have salvaged parts of the jetliner and brought some bodies of passengers and crew and their luggage to the surface of the sea and moved them to an unknown location in seven rail freight cars.

It was very important to find these remains in order to place the incident in a proper historical context, he added.

The KAL Boeing 747 jetliner carrying 269 passengers and crew was shot down by a Soviet fighter and subsequently crashed into waters off Sakhalin Sept. 1, 1983, while en route to Seoul from New York via Anchorage, Alaska.

Material to Multilateral Body

SK0112114392 Seoul YONHAP in English 1118 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 1 (YONHAP)—The Russian Government conceded Tuesday that the cockpit voice record (CVR) of the black box taken from the downed Korean airliner, which President Boris Yeltsin delivered to South Korea last month, was reproduced one and the handed materials did not contain the crucial flight data record (FDR).

South Korean Ambassador Hong Sun-yong here said to Korean correspondents that Moscow kept them for delivery to a five-party fact-finding committee set to meet here in Moscow next week.

Ambassador Hong met the reporters after he conferred with Yuriy Petrov, head of the administration office of the Russian presidential office, earlier in the day.

The five-party committee comprises South Korea, Russia, the United States, Japan and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Ambassador Hong said Petrov, who concurrently heads a special Russian committee on the KAL incident, told him that Russia did not hand the complete black box data to South Korea because they had decided to furnish the original black box data to the five-party committee meeting slated for Dec. 8 and 9.

Petrov, Hong said, conceded that the cockpit voice record tapes handed to Seoul last month were reproduced ones and that the flight data record was not included in the data turned over to Korea.

According to the ambassador, Petrov said that Russia's failure to notify Korea of the incompleteness of the black box materials in advance was due to a confusion that arose in the process of awaiting Yeltsin's decision on the materials.

The Russian official then said his government regrets that such failure had happened.

Petrov also said that other relevant countries—the United States and Japan—were opposed to the one-sided delivery of black box materials to Korea only.

He then stressed that under the provisions of Article 26 of the ICAO regulations, the country where an accident occurred is responsible for all accident investigation.

Ambassador Hong said he told the Russian official that all materials should be turned over to Korea which he said is the primary party to the incident and that if the materials were to be furnished to the ICAO, it should be done so through Korea.

Hong also told Petrov that Korea had thought the materials Yeltsin delivered to Seoul were complete black box data including the flight data record, and planned to turn them over to the ICAO after their preliminary review, he said.

YONHAP Reports DPRK Proposal for 12th JNCC Meeting

SK0112121792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1202 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (YONHAP)—North Korea proposed to the South Tuesday that the 12th meeting of the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC] at Peace House in the southern sector of Panmunjom on Dec. 8.

The proposal was made in a telephone message addressed to the South's commission Chairman Kong No-myong. It was signed by Choe U-chin, the North's chairman of the joint commission.

Choe said in the message he was proposing the next conference in a bid to "resolve at an early date the denuclearization issue linked to the very survival of our nation."

The previous 11th commission meeting was held on Nov. 27, where the two sides were so preoccupied in squabbling over the Team Spirit issue that they couldn't discuss the nuclear question much less deciding on the time of the 12th meeting.

Military Assumes Command of Ground Forces

SK0112095592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0715 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (YONHAP)—Korea took over the Ground Component Command (GCC) of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) from the United States and the two allies activated the Combined Marine Forces Command (CMFC) Tuesday.

Gen. Kim Tong-chin, Deputy CFC Commander, took over command of the GCC from Gen. Robert RisCassi, who had been commanding the GCC as the CFC Commander, while Lt. Gen. Yim Chong-nin, commandant of the South Korean Marine Corps, became the commander of the CMFC, a theater-level corps, in a ceremony at a U.S. military installation in central Seoul.

A number of Korean and U.S. military leaders, including Gen. Yi Pil-sop, chairman of the Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff, attended the ceremony.

RisCassi, commander of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), also handed command of the 8th U.S. Army over to Lt. Gen. William Crouch, chief of staff of the United Nations Command and CFC.

Transfer of the GCC command to the Korean side came after the two countries agreed in early October to turn the role of the USFK to a supporting one as far as defense of the Korean peninsula was concerned.

Transfer of command of the 8th U.S. Army to a three-star general from a four-star general was part of efforts to uplift efficiency of command and coordination over the two armies, a USFK spokesman said.

With the shift, RisCassi remains commander of the CFC, USFK and the United Nations Command (UNC), the spokesman added.

Normal Relations With South Africa Resume

SK0112075392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0510 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and South Africa normalized ties Monday after more than 13 years of sanctions erected to protest against apartheid.

The diplomatic normalization protocol was signed in Tokyo by Korean Ambassador O Chae-hui and Acting South African Ambassador Eugene Grobler.

Korea welcomed the resumption of constitutional negotiations between President Frederik de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said after announcing the normalization of relations.

Seoul wished to reinforce contacts with South African political parties and organizations "and thereby further contribute to the international efforts to build a democratic non-racial South Africa," the spokesman said.

Seoul pulled its Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) offices out of South Africa in 1978 and banned all economic, trade, sports and cultural exchanges. It gradually eased sanctions from 1990, after De Klerk took the presidency.

The KOTRA office reopened in June and five South Korean companies now have branches in South Africa.

Bilateral trade totaled 930 million U.S. dollars last year, with a 366 million-U.S.-dollar surplus for South Africa. Approximately 400 South Koreans live in the African country.

Kim Chong-il Reportedly Profits From Gold, Arms Sales

SK3011093392 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 30 Nov 92 p 22

[Article by reporter Kim Taek-won from Macao]

[Text] It had been previously known that foreign exchange-earning routes for Kim Chong-il, secretary of North Korea's Workers Party of Korea, were Macao and

Vienna, Austria, but it was confirmed that he earns foreign exchange by mainly relying on the sale of gold bars and weaponry.

This was discovered on 25 November by the Macao customs office which caught three North Koreans who attempted to smuggle in 73 kg of gold bars.

An individual called Mr. Pak, ringleader of gold bar smugglers, identified himself at the customs office as a North Korean Credit Bank official. It was learned that the two others are North Koreans who reside in Macao and that they led Mr. Pak to Macao via Pyongyang and Beijing. According to the local source, North Korea has brought in North Korean-produced gold through Macao and earned foreign exchange. This gold smuggling activity, however, was recently brought to public notice for the first time.

Although North Korea could export gold to Macao through China, it has smuggled in gold for direct sales to the local gold and silver dealers so that they could evade tax and sell it at a higher price than the one sold in the international market. It was also learned that officials of the Pyongyang Credit Bank, Chokwang Trade Corporation—North Korea's permanent agency in Macao—and DPRK-Austria International Travel Agency, were involved in the North Korean-produced gold smuggling.

The local source confirms that the price for Scud missiles exported last year by North Korea to Iran was also settled through Macao.

DPRK Shows First Sign of Approving Highway Project

SK0112042392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0223 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—A proposal for a highway linking China, Russia, Mongolia, South Korea and North Korea received a major boost last week when North Korea unexpectedly expressed interest in the project, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

Kim Yong, a senior researcher at the North Korean Foreign Ministry's international organization department, told the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) regional committee meeting in New Delhi Nov. 24-27, that a highway connecting the Korean peninsula with the continent was necessary and that Pyongyang was interested, the officials said.

One official who attended the meeting said immediate progress was unlikely, but predicted the project would move forward from late next year.

All of the other countries had previously shown an active interest in the project, but it was Pyongyang's first positive response, he said.

The change in North Korea's attitude apparently stemmed from its need to expand its infrastructure for successful development of the Tumen River basin and its free economic zones, he said.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) said it would provide 1 million U.S. dollars to operate the Regional Investment Information and Promotion Service (RIIPS), increasing its possibilities as well.

The Export and Import Bank of Korea has been pushing for RIIPS through ESCAP. The service would pool all information on regional investment to South Korea and help small- and medium-sized companies make investment decisions.

The service may be built by mid-next year with the UNDP's assistance, officials said.

Intellectual Property Rights Talks With Japan Scheduled for 4 Dec

SK0112044192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0239 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan hold their fourth intellectual property rights protection talks in Tokyo Dec. 4, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

This round of talks is expected to be the most detailed so far, discussing Japan's demands sector by sector, ministry officials said.

Tokyo insists that Seoul grant it the same conditions it gave to the European Community, including retroactive protection from 10 years before the agreement date.

Chong Yong-ku, director of international trade division, leads the South Korean delegation while Masatoshi Muto, director of Northeast Asia division, heads the Japanese team.

Ministry Says Exports Fall for First Time in 14 Months

SK0112100692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0819 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (YONHAP)—Exports fell in November for the first time in 14 months, dropping 0.3 percent from the same month last year to 6,654 million U.S. dollars, the Trade and Industry Ministry said on Tuesday.

Imports plunged 13 percent to 6,406 million dollars for a surplus of 249 million dollars.

January-November exports totaled 69,667 million dollars, up 8.6 percent, and imports reached 74,852 million dollars, up 0.2 percent.

The 11-month deficit of 5,185 million dollars is down from 5,356 million dollars last year.

Trade officials explained that there was a drop of about 250 million dollars of exports because customs offices were open one day less than the same month last year.

Semiconductor exports fell short of their target by 20 million dollars due to anti-dumping measures taken by the United States: Containers, 30 million dollars, following labor disputes at Hyundai Precision and Industry Co.; petrochemical products, 20 million dollars, due to a technical hitch at Hyundai Petrochemical Co.; home electronics, 40 million dollars; and textiles, 40 million dollars, due to unexpectedly sluggish demand in China.

Exports to Japan, the European Community and the United States all shrank. In particular, exports to the United States declined in double-digits owing to a slowdown in exports of electric home appliances and textile products and U.S. anti-dumping steps against Korean steel products and semiconductors.

The drop in imports resulted largely from a decline in airplane purchases of 200 million dollars. Oil imports remained at the same level as last year.

Steel Industry in 'Shock' Over U.S. Countervailing Duties

SK0112091692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0524 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (YONHAP)—Korean steelmakers were in a state of shock Tuesday after the U.S. Government slapped countervailing duties on their exports.

They also fear that if the U.S. Commerce Department supports dumping charges against Korean steel goods early next year, they will have no choice but to stop selling in the U.S. market.

The Commerce Department determined provisionally countervailing duties on Korean steel products ranging from 5.51 percent on hot-rolled sheet to 2.93 percent on galvanized sheet to offset "subsidies."

Until the U.S. Government makes a final ruling on the issue in March next year, Korean steel exporters will have to deposit 3-5 percent in countervailing duties.

For example, cold-rolled sheet exporters have to deposit 18 U.S. dollars in cash or bond for each ton of sheet worth 400 dollars until the decision is fixed.

An industry source said that it will rob Korean steelmakers of their competitive power as export deals are made or flounder on a price gap of only 5 to 10 dollars a ton.

Korean steel manufacturers are to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the U.S. move after analysing Commerce Department data on the preliminary decision.

The source said that domestic steelmakers are more worried about dumping charges on which the U.S. Government will make a provisional ruling on Jan. 26 next year.

Currently, major steel exports—hot- and cold-rolled sheet, galvanized sheet and plate products—face dumping charges.

Korea plans to protest against the U.S. offensive at the Multilateral Steel Agreement (MSA) negotiations opening in Geneva Dec. 9.

The European Community and other countries are also likely to lodge complaint for the U.S. move to protect its steel industry in the Geneva meeting, raising the possibility of political solutions, the source said.

Government To Demand Revision of U.S.-EC Farm Market Accord

SK3011100092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0815 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea is to strongly demand revisions to the U.S.-European Community (EC) agricultural market opening accord at this week's conference of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), officials said Monday.

Korean Ambassador to Geneva Pak Su-kil is to head the Seoul delegation to the GATT general conference Dec. 2-4, when the Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks will be the chief topic.

Pak is to urge opening of the Track Four Committee that is authorized to handle proposals for changes in the U.S.-EC farm market settlement reached Nov. 20.

The EC is refusing Track Four, saying it will only delay the Uruguay Round negotiations by subjecting the agreement to unending demand for exceptions and revisions from countries like South Korea that refuse to open their agricultural markets.

The U.S.-EC agreement, covering dramatic farm subsidy reductions, paved the way for complete agricultural market opening through tariffication without exception, including the Korean rice market.

Seoul will demand that other opposing countries be given a chance to explain their positions on the controversy and have them reflected through the Track Four Committee, the officials said.

Rice Market Closing

SK0112011192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0103 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Brussels, Dec. 1 (YONHAP)—South Korea informed the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Monday that it would not open its rice market.

Korea also demanded that the United States and the European community (EC) reveal concrete concessions following an agreement between them.

Korean officials made the points when they met with Germain Denis, head of the Uruguay Round negotiating group on market access. Denis called on Seoul to present a new country list, noting that some agricultural items, including rice, were reserved in a previous report.

GATT is scheduled to enter into discussions early next week after negotiators listen to each other's positions on farm imports and to set a negotiating direction by week's end.

Central Bank Announces Balance of Payments Debt Reduction

SK2811020392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0120 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 28 (YONHAP)—Three straight current account surpluses have trimmed South Korea's international balance of payments deficit to 4.69 billion U.S. dollars as of the end of October, the Bank of Korea (BOK) said Saturday.

Surpluses of 86 million dollars in August, 93 million dollars in September and 168 million dollars in October had cut the current account deficit for the first 10 months of the year by 3.81 billion dollars from 8.5 billion dollars a year earlier, the Central Bank said.

October's trade surplus was 290 million dollars, a sharp decline from 500 million dollars in September, and the invisible trade deficit shrank to 180 million dollars from 440 million dollars, helping the current account standing improve.

Exports and imports rose 7.7 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively, last month over the same month last year.

Shipments to Southeast Asian countries, South and Central America, and China were actively centered on heavy industrial and chemical products like steels and automobiles, while those to the United States and Japan were sluggish.

Exports of chemicals increased 52.3 percent in October from a year earlier: Steels, 32.1 percent: Semiconductors, 18.2 percent: and automobiles, 14.2 percent. Shipments of textile goods and footwear decreased 6.1 percent and 16.5 percent, respectively.

Arrivals of letters of credit, a barometer of future export volume, soared 2.7 percent last month from the previous year. They grew 110.5 percent for automobiles, 73.6 percent for chemicals and 37.9 percent for steel products, but dropped 59.4 percent for machinery and 8.9 percent for textiles.

Imports of capital goods surged due to the purchase of ships and aircraft, but those of raw material goods have continued to decline since July as foreign purchases of raw products for light industry receded.

Issuances of import licenses dropped 3.9 percent in October from a year earlier. They plunged 42.2 percent for steel products, 28.2 percent for machinery and 7 percent for textiles

The invisible trade deficit was 180 million dollars last month, the lowest monthly level this year because the payments of debts and royalties that are mostly due at the end of each quarter declined and the tourism balance improved.

The nation had a net increase of 970 million dollars on short- and long-term capital balance, mainly because the inflow of foreign money for stock investment climbed and domestic companies issued securities in overseas financial markets.

Foreign exchange holdings stood at 15.7 billion dollars at the end of October, up 280 million dollars from a month earlier.

Defense Ministry Finds No North Korean Tunnels Near Kimpo

SK2611114192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0558 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Defense Ministry said Thursday it had found no trace of a North Korean underground tunnel around Kimpo, northwest of Seoul.

In a briefing to Korean and foreign newsmen on the site of excavation the ministry has been working since Oct. 2, a senior official of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said that there was no sign for a North Korean underground tunnel.

The Defense Ministry, mobilizing a variety of sophisticated equipment, dug the area following tips from four civilians who had been engaged in excavations of their own to find a tunnel.

There had been widespread rumors that North Korea might be digging underground tunnels across the demarcation zone.

The ministry already discounted the possibility of finding a North Korean tunnel in the area at a news conference on June 3, but resumed the works as the rumors continued to spread.

"The ministry, in cooperation with the JCS, dug holes in 15 points by various means but has found no sign for a North Korean underground tunnel," the official said.

The sites include 10 areas pointed by Chong Chi-yong and three other civilian excavators, the official said. The ministry added five other areas for checking.

The ministry and the four civilians have agreed to conclude that there were no North Korean underground tunnel in the Kimpo, the official said.

Another investigation will be conducted in Yonchon area, Kyonggi Province, a second site suspected by the four civilians, next week, he added.

The Army has drilled some 4,000 holes in some 20 suspect areas and found four such tunnels, obviously for infiltration into South Korea, since Nov. 15, 1974, when the first tunnel was discovered.

Civilians have made 21 claims of underground tunnels forcing the ministry to dig 502 points but no tunnel was found among them, the official said.

Japan 'Reluctant' To Share Advanced Technology

SK2711021292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0103 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 27 (YONHAP)—Japan is more reluctant than Britain, Germany and the United States to share advanced technologies with South Korea, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Friday.

Of 582 technologies imported last year, only 81, or 13.9 percent, were classified as "sophisticated" and were thus eligible for benefits such as a five-year reduction of the tax on royalties.

While Japan supplied Korea with the most techonologies at 277, only 20, or 7.2 percent, of the total were sophisticated: One out of 40 oil-refining and chemical technologies: five of 60 electric and electronics technologies: and 14 of 97 machinery technologies.

Japan didn't sell Korea any advanced technology in the fields of pharmaceuticals, shipbuilding or communications.

The United States transferred 165 technologies to Korea last year, and 37, or 22.4 percent, were eligible for tax benefits.

Germany handed over six in 1991, or 17.1 percent of its total technology exports to Korea.

Korea bought 25 technologies from Britain, the smallest amount from a major high-tech exporter, but the country was first as 32 percent were sophisticated.

Trade Ministry Says China Overtakes ROK in U.S. Trade

SK2811020192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0107 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 28 (YONHAP)—China leaped forward to become the seventh biggest trading partner of the United States with two-way shipments amounting to 23.73 billion U.S. dollars in the first nine months of the year, compared with a South Korea-U.S. total of 23.67 billion dollars for the period, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Saturday.

Korea traded 21.12 billion dollars of goods with the United States in January-August, 637 million dollars ahead of China with 20.48 billion dollars, the ministry said, quoting U.S. Commerce Department data.

But China-U.S. tradings reached 3,254 million dollars in September, outshining Korea's 2,492 million dollars by 762 million dollars.

China, which overtook Korea in exports to the United States in June, passed Taiwan in September to snatch fifth place after Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Germany. In addition, it piled up the second biggest trade surplus with the United States after Japan.

China shipped 15.82 billion dollars worth goods to the United States in the first eight months, trailing Taiwan's U.S. exports of 16.16 billion dollars.

But exports swelled to 2,765 million dollars in September and China's total shipments amounted to 18.58 billion dollars in the first nine months, 267 million dollars more than Taiwan because the island's U.S. exports stopped at 2,153 million dollars for September.

Korea's U.S. exports totaled 12.497 billion dollars for the period, 6.08 billion dollars less than China's.

China hailed a black figure of 13.43 billion dollars during the first nine months in trade with the United States, 4,798 million dollars more than the same period last year. Its surplus growth was 674 million dollars more than Japan's surge of 3,124 million dollars.

Korea managed to raise the black figure to 1,387 million dollars, up 332 million dollars from 1,055 million dollars a year earlier, but just a tenth of China's surplus.

'Broad Economic Assistance' Planned for Ethiopia

SK2711065592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0627 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea agreed to provide Ethiopia with broad economic assistance Friday, including bank loans, industrial products and technology donations.

Visiting Ethiopian Foreign Minister Mesfin Seyoum requested Korea's active aid in the transition from a government-controlled to a free market economy, officials said, and his Korean counterpart, Yi Sang-ok, promised support through Seoul's Economic Development and Cooperation Fund (EDCF) and bank loans.

Seoul is to send an economic delegation to Ethiopia within the first half of next year to select areas of investment and trade, the officials said.

Seyoum arrived here Thursday for a four-day visit and the two countries signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation earlier in the day.

Yi thanked him for Ethiopia's support for Korea during the 1950-1953 Korean war and pointed out the economic assistance such as this year's 300,000 U.S. dollars worth of industrial donations and a 500-ton rice donation.

He promised continued aid through EDCF as soon as Ethiopia presents its project plans.

Seyoum expressed full support for Korea's national unification efforts and for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the officials said.

Foreign Ministry Announces Aviation Pact With Greece

SK2811045592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0245 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Greece have initialed an aviation agreement launching direct flight services, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

The agreement, initialed at the end of two days of aviation talks in Athens, stipulates that one airline from each side may service the route, although South Korea demanded that multiple airlines be allowed.

South Korea has two airlines while Greece has only one.

The agreement does not specify when to start the service or other details, leaving them to direct talks between airline officials.

Vice Foreign Minister To Visit Egypt Beginning 4 Dec

SK2611034192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0315 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Vice Foreign Minister No Chang-hui will visit Egypt next week to discuss Seoul-Cairo diplomatic normalization, officials said Thursday.

No leaves Dec. 4 for an approximately eight-day trip taking him to Saudi Arabia and Egypt for talks on promoting bilateral relations.

He is expected to meet with ranking officials in Cairo to tap on early diplomatic normalization, according to the officials.

Egypt has been delaying full ties with South Korea because of its alliance with North Korea but sources here say Seoul-Cairo normalization is likely next year. The two countries exchanged consuls-general in August last year.

Russia To Open Consulate General in Pusan in Dec

SK2611114392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0524 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Pusan, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—Russia will open its consulate-general in Pusan early next month, an agent for Russian shipping companies said Thursday.

The agent, Korwell Co., said that the Russian consulate-general will open at a 40-pyong (132 square meters) room on the 10th floor of a building in Chungang-dong, Chung-gu, which is now housing the Pusan branch of Korea Exchange Bank.

The consulate-general will start issuing visas in mid-December to South Koreans who want to visit Russia and take care of Russian residents and visitors to this Southern port city.

Polish Policy Consulations Slated for 3 Dec in Warsaw

SK2711064192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0609 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Poland hold their first policy consultation meeting Dec. 3 in Warsaw, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Choe Song-hong, director-general of European Affairs, and Jerzy Pomianowski, Polish Foreign Ministry director-general for Asian Affairs, will discuss political and economic changes on the Korean peninsula and in Eastern Europe.

This will be the first policy consultation session since diplomatic normalization in November 1989.

Choe will attend a meeting of South Korean chiefs of missions in Central and Eastern Europe in Prague on Nov. 30 to discuss new diplomatic policies following the breakup of republics such as Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

Burma

Aung San Suu Kyi Reportedly on Hunger Strike

BK0112010492 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 0000 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] The husband of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's opposition leader and Nobel Peace laureate, has expressed concerns about his wife's state of health. In an interview with the BBC, Dr. Michael Aris, explained that his wife had refused to accept food from the Burmese authorities since her detention over three years ago, and she had relied on her own funds and support from her family. Dr Aris explained that at present Daw Aung San Suu Kyi no longer receives support from her family, and he said she now appears to be on a hunger strike.

The news reports say Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest for over three years, and although her NLD [National League for Democracy] won the 1990 general elections, the Defense Forces refused to transfer power.

Oxford News Conference Reported

BK0112090692 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1430 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Dispatch from Oxford by U Aung Myint Tun, member of the BBC Burmese Service, from the "Current World Affairs" program—recorded]

[Text] I am reporting from a news conference on the living conditions of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi given by her husband, Dr. Michael Aris, at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, England. It was at St. Hugh's College that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received her Master's degree.

At the news conference, Dr. Michael Aris explained that he had received a short letter written in Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's handwriting on 23 November. The letter was received through military channels. In the letter, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told Dr. Aris and her sons not to come and see her as she no longer has sufficient funds to receive them and asked him to give her greetings for the New Year to her friends and family members.

So now the hope of Dr. Aris and his two sons to visit Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during December has been dashed. Dr. Aris explained the condition of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as follows: She has been under house arrest for four years and her current condition is such that her life may be in danger.

He explained that as her detention continues, her own funds for living expenses have been almost depleted and she has refused to receive any new funds or favors from her captors as she believes it would only prolong her unlawful detention. For the same reason, she has refused any support from Dr. Aris. Dr. Aris explained that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has donated the cash she received from the Nobel Peace Prize and other international awards to a special trust fund to help the health and education of the Burmese people.

In response to my question on the only solution to the plight of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the country, Dr. Aris explained that since 1988 Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has consistently demanded a policy of negotiation, believing that the only way out is for those with reason to meet and hold talks. Dr. Aris said the other side has never responded to her demand.

Observers who are sincere about Burma's interests believe that negotiations between leaders of the two sides who can effectively work for the country and have goodwill toward the people are genuinely desired by the people in the country as well as the international audience. Face-to-face negotiations may take time, but if they are conducted with patience, many issues could be resolved. Taking time does not mean sacrificing many lives and blood and suffering but entails patience, tolerance, the ability to listen to the other side, and the ability to present one's own position to the other side. In essence, it should be based on moral strength. The objectives—ensuring the perpetuity and unity of the union, national solidarity, the emergence of a firm constitution, and prescribing a fitting role for the Defense Services—can be obtained peacefully, smoothly, and firmly through negotiations among the leaders who can effectively work for the country with goodwill.

I conclude this dispatch from St. Hugh's College, Oxford by saying that observers believe domestic issues can best be resolved by the people inside the country.

NCGUB Calls for Action

BK0112120492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 1 (AFP)—Burma's jungle-based dissident government Tuesday called for immediate international action to ensure the well-being of detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi who is said to be on the verge of a hunger strike.

The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) also called for Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate release from house arrest where Burma's ruling junta has confined her for the last three years and four months.

The NCGUB, in a statement released here, said Burma's ruling junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), would be held fully responsible if anything happened to Aung San Suu Kyi.

Aung San Suu Kyi, who was awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for her non-violent campaign against Burma's military dictatorship, is refusing all funds and assistance to her, her husband said on Monday.

"I'm afraid it is beginning to look like a hunger strike," univesity professor Michael Aris said in Oxford. Aris said he believed the situation regarding his wife was now critical.

The NCGUB, based in territory controlled by ethnic minority guerrillas, is made up of politicians from Aung

San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) who won seats in May 1990 elections but have been denied power by the SLORC.

"If the international community (does) not take effective measures on this matter the world may be losing (its) 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and the democratic leader of the Burmese people unnecessarily," the statement said.

The NLD won a landslide in the 1990 polls despite the fact that Aung San Suu Kyi was under house arrest.

Delegation Heads for Development Meeting in Nepal

BK2911080092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] It has been learned that Lieutenant Colonel Thein Han, director general of the Office of Work Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races, and U Soe Kyi, acting director general of the Forestry Department, left Yangon [Rangoon] airport this morning to attend the 18th meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development [ICIMOD] to be held Katmandu, Nepal from 30 November to 2 December. They will also observe the ICIMOD activities, which are being implemented in Nepal, until 6 December.

Industry-1 Minister Returns From Japan, ROK

BK3011140492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] industrial delegation led by Lieutenant General Sein Aung, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and minister of industry-1, arrived back in Yangon [Rangoon] by air this afternoon after visiting Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The minister and delegation were welcomed at Yangon Airport by Major General Kyaw Min, minister of mines; Brigadier General Thaung Myint, minister of social welfare, relief, and resettlement; Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tomoya Kawamura; ROK Ambassador Mr. Hang-Kyong Kim; and high ranking officials and heads of divisions from the Ministry of Industrty-1.

Muslim Refugees Repatriated From Bangladesh

BK2611150092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] In accordance with the agreement reached between the leaders of Myanmar [Burma] and Bangladesh, there have been systematic repatriation of those who fled Myanmar to Bangladesh. Thus, 855 persons from 201 households, who fled to Bangladesh, arrived by boats at the Kanyinchaung reception center starting from 1230 on 25 November and the repatriation process was carried out smoothly in a frank but cordial manner. Chittagong Commissioner Mr. Omar Farooq and party, currently in Maungdaw, accompanied by U Maung Aung, director general of Immigration and Manpower Department, went to Kanyinchaung reception center inspected the repatriation process and spoke words of encouragement to the returnees.

Responsible personnel and Red Cross youths gave necessary medical treatment, distributed pots and pans, and foodstuff to those who arrived at the repatriation center. Arrangements are being made to send the returnees to their respective villages by boats and cars. The township cooperative society also sold other basic commodities at reasonable prices.

Furthermore, it has been learned that 26 persons from six households returned to Myanmar today.

Monthly Meeting on Refugee Repatriation Held

BK2711110792 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] In accordance with the coordinated agreement between the leaders of Myanmar [Burma] and Bangladesh, Myanmar has been systematically inspecting and accepting those who fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar.

The Bangladeshi delegation led by Mr. Omar Farooq, commissioner of Chittagong, arrived at Maungdaw jetty by boat at 0900 on 23 November to attend the monthly regular meeting of high-level officials from Myanmar and Bangladesh to discuss matters related to the repatriation of those who fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar. They then proceeded to Thonmaing Sakan in Maungdaw and held a preliminary meeting and discussed matters related to the repatriation of those who fled from Myanmar with U Maung Aung, director general of immigration and manpower department, at May-Yu Yeiktha.

The Chittagong commissioner and delegation then called on Brigadier General Win Myint, chairman of the Arakan State Law and Order Restoration Council [ASLORC] and commander of the Western Military Command, at the ASLORC office. They frankly and cordially discussed matters related to the mutual interest of both countries.

The Chittagong commissioner and delegation later arrived at Sandoway airport at 1400. They visited Nga Pali Beach Hotel and recreational centers on Nga Pali beach in the evening. Then the Myanmar-Bangladesh meeting was held at the meeting hall of Annawa Yeiktha that night. At the meeting, the Myanmar side was led by U Maung Aung, director general of the immigration and manpower department, and the Bangaldeshi side was led by Mr. Omar Farooq, commissioner of Chittagong. The sides had a smooth discussion and coordinated on matters related to the repatriation of those who fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar. It was the 11th meeting on this matter.

On 24 November, the Chittagong commissioner and delegation toured in Sandoway and visited Basic Middle School near Zegyi in the vicinity of Jamah Mosque. At the Basic Middle School, they met Muslim students, other students, and teachers and later met a Muslim religious leader at the Jamah Mosque.

In the evening, the Chittagong Commissioner and delegation visited Zalun Village and paid respects to the remains of the late Zalun Maday Sayadaw U Thuzata Maha Ashinmyat [revered monk]. Then the Chittagong commissioner and delegation met Brig. Gen Win Myint, chairman of the ASLORC and commander of the Western Command.

At night, Brig. Gen. Win Myint, commander of the Western Military Command, hosted a dinner in honor of the commissioner of Chittagong and his delegation at the Annawa Yeiktha. At the dinner, members of the Sandoway Township's Rakhine Cultural troupe provided entertainment with a cultural dance and modern songs and music.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Commentary Views Trade Potential With India

BK3011134192 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Despite having a minority government, India's parliament has given an overwhelming consensus to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's economic reforms. In the past 16 months, the economic restructuring has well been under way in virtually every area of industry, finance, investment, (?exchange) rates and factories. Like Malaysia, it has adopted an open policy towards foreign invsetments and technology.

Last week the Indian high commissioner to Malaysia called on Malaysian industrialists to invest in India. The invitation is timely, especially for labor-intensive industries. Malaysia is proud that it is gradually emphasizing capital-intensive and high-technology industries. Cheap labor costs are no longer part of its many attractions. But in India labor costs are still very competitive and, therefore, both Malaysian firms and foreign investors should consider relocating there. Eventually, the finished goods could be either brought back or sold to Third countries. Areas that have potential in India include computer software, resource-based industries, photo-component industries and precision tools. The Indian Government is offering a 50-percent foreign equity in 34 priority areas. Approval for a 100-percent foreign equity can also be got in specialized activities, lower incentives which should be exploited by Malaysian industrialists. In addition, it would a testing ground for them to prove their ability to compete in a different country. All this would go a long way, not only in further boosting India-Malaysia trade, but also enhance South-South cooperation in the process.

Bilateral trade between Malaysia and India is expected to pass the 3-billion ringgit mark in 1993. Efforts are being taken to boost their trade ties between the private sectors of both countries. In February, the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers will jointly organize a trade mission to India with the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The visit was expected to look for a bigger possibility to increase trade and investment. Besides this, there is tremendous scope for cooperation between India's private sector and Malaysia's small and medium scale industries. This could be an important part in supporting the heavier industries providing vital components as well as by undertaking subcontracting projects. India, too, has indicated it has clinched long-term contracts to buy oil palm. This will augur well for the strengthening of commercial linkages between the parties.

There is so much potential for two-way trade. India offers a vastly untapped potential taking into account the size of the markets of the Indian sub-continent. Malaysia, on its part, could be a gateway for the fast-flowing ASEAN market of 320 million people. Therefore, there is much to be gained by both sides. What is needed is for increased contacts between the respective sectors. Given the proximity, there is no reason why bilateral trade missions should not be made more frequent for the stronger economy—both Malaysia and India, countries of the South—can have a better bargaining power when dealing with the North. So, this potential in the South has to be exploited to the maximum. Malaysia and India have shown the right way in looking at each other's potential. Other South countries should also follow suit. Ultimately, their aim is to depend less on the North and make the North look to the South as a potentially lucrative and productive market.

Singapore

Further Reportage on Turkish Premier's Visit

Demirel Addresses Business Community

BK3011143292 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Summary from poor reception] The Turkish prime minister, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, says his country is very keen to increase business ties with Singapore. Mr. Demirel was speaking at the lunch hosted by the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce. He said businessmen can open new rooms together for the new markets in Europe and the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. Six companies in Singapore had started business in Turkey, mainly in tourism. Their total capital investment stands at about 20 million dollars.

Hosted at Dinner

TA3011181892 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Report by Gulen Bican from Singapore]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong hosted a dinner in honor of Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel at the presidential palace this evening.

In a dinner speech, Goh remarked that Turkey and Singapore are two countries that play the role of bridge in their respective regions. Pointing out that Turkey has accumulated valuable experience regarding the markets of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, Goh said that Singapore businessmen who wish to conduct business in these regions could benefit from this experience.

In his turn, Demirel declared that Turkey is determined to develop its relations with Singapore in every field. He noted that bilateral trade has increased significantly in the past six years, adding: Turkey is now looking for new markets and partners in eastern and southeastern Asia and the Pacific. Singapore plays an important role in this region. Demirel called on Singapore firms to invest in Turkey especially in the tourism, electronics, and manufacturing fields.

The prime minister concluded his visit to Singapore. He will leave for Japan tomorrow morning.

Cambodia

Premier, Ranariddh Agree To Form Government

OW0112114992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1123 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec. 1 KYODO—The Phnom Penh government's prime minister, Hun Sen, and Prince Norodom Ranariddh have agreed in principle to set up a coalition government without the Khmer Rouge following a general election scheduled to be held next May, a high-ranking Phnom Penh government official said Tuesday.

Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh also agreed that a presidential election should be held as soon as possible with Prince Norodom Sihanouk as a candidate, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Ranariddh is the son of Sihanouk, who heads one of the four factions in Cambodia.

Prime Minister Hun Sen and Ranariddh reached these accords after holding a series of meetings in Beijing November 7 and 8 when the four factions and multinational negotiators held talks and failed to resolve disputes threatening to derail Cambodia's peace process, the official said.

The agreement results in a virtual exclusion of the Khmer Rouge faction from the process of setting up the government, political watchers said.

Ranariddh and his followers have gained widespread support from voters in Cambodian cities in their election campaign while the Phnom Penh government is not likely to win a majority in the upcoming election partly due to revelations of political corruption, the watchers said.

The fourth faction, led by Son Sann, was not included as a coalition partner in the Hun Sen-Ranariddh deal as the faction has split and not yet clarified its stance on the presidential election, the official said.

The Phnom Penh government, backed by Vietnam, has fought with the three antigovernment forces, led by Sihanouk, Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge, since Vietnam invaded Cambodia in January 1978.

With the signing of the October 1991 Paris peace accord, the 22,000-member United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was set up in the Southeast Asian country to try to disarm the four warring factions to restore peace in the country in preparation for next May's election.

The Khmer Rouge, however, has refused to disarm, claiming Vietnamese forces are still in the country.

The UN Security Council voted Monday to impose economic sanctions on the Khmer Rouge unless the faction agrees to participate in the peace process.

Khmer Rouge 15-20 Nov Truce Violations Reported

BK2711053592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] In recent weeks, the Khmer Rouge have escalated serious truce violations with attacks and shellings against some positions of the State of Cambodia [SOC]. As a result, two combatants were killed and 11 others wounded.

According to the SOC's Commission for Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations, between 1900 and 2000 on 17 November in the northern province of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Khmer Rouge elements fired with DK-75, DK-82, and 82-mm guns 200 shells on the position of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] in Sre Khvav Commune, Angkor Chum District. And on 20 November, Khmer Rouge troops launched three onslaughts on the following SOC positions:

1. Between 0500 and 0700, they attacked the position at Tuol Kruos, Banteay Srei District, causing the CPAF to lose the position and wounding six combatants;

2. They mounted two attacks against Angkor Chum District: The first one was launched between 0400 and 0600 and the second one between 0800 and 1000; and

3. They raided the position in Khvav commune, Srei Snam district.

In Battambang Province at 1700 on 16 November, Khmer Rouge troops fired eight 60-mm mortars and B-40.5 rockets on Ta Hen Commune in Bavel district. And at 1700 on 17 November, they fired 15 B-40.5 rockets on Ta Hen Commune for the second time.

On 15 November, Khmer Rouge elements ambushed a group of CPAF troops in Meanchey Commune, Moung Russei district, killing two CPAF combatants and wounding five others.

Khmer Rouge General Protests Attack in Sre Ambel

BK2811035192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Nov 92

["Message from General Nuon Bunno, liaison officer of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in the Mixed Military Working Group, to Gen. John Sanderson, UNTAC military commander in Cambodia;" dated 26 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Gen. John Sanderson, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] military commander in Cambodia, Phnom Penh.

General: I have just received a report from liaison officers of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] in Zone 6 at the junction of Roads 4 and 18 in Sre Ambel saying that on 22 November 1992 at 1800, Vietnamese and Phnom Penh soldiers from Regiment E-97 stationed in K'aong on National Route 4 attacked the base of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] in Chroung village in the sector UT 7425, wounding five of our NADK combatants, some seriously. It also created insecurity among people in this village and neighboring villages who dare not go out to harvest crops and earn their living for fear of being attacked by the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side.

On behalf of the NADK, I would like to angrily protest the above incident which was caused by Vietnamese and Phnom Penh troops; this is a flagrant violation of the cease-fire destroying the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

I would like to ask you to intervene effectively and definitively to prevent the above incident from occurring again. Our NADK would like to reserve the right to absolutely defend ourselves and defend the lives and property of the people.

General, the PDK, the NADK, and the entire Cambodian people hold that to definitively end Vietnam's war of aggression, UNTAC should implement the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement correctly in accordance with the true nature and original essence of every clause of the agreement, and in particular the accord's two key points. Only this way can the Cambodian nation and people have the right to live as an independent country with its territorial integrity.

Please accept my high consideration.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 26 November 1991
[Signed] Gen. Nuon Bunno, NADK liaison officer in the Mixed Military Working Group.

Early Nov Incursion by Gunmen Into SRV Alleged

BK2611101392 Hong Kong AFP in English 0756 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 26 (AFP)—Armed gunmen crossed the Cambodian border into Vietnam early this month, ransacked a farming village, abducted nine people, and shot four of them dead, a UN spokesman said Thursday.

Two of the men were elderly and two women were also raped during the border incursion, which took place on November 2, the spokesman Eric Falt said.

The incident took place near a UN peacekeeping checkpoint at Seoul set up to monitor the border.

All the Vietnamese were related members of two or three families, Falt said.

The handful of gunmen—whose identity and nationality have not been confirmed—crossed the Cambodian border into the Vietnamese Province of Sung Be, ransacked houses, stole jewelry and abducted nine people, he said.

They were forced across the border into Kratie Province into a heavily mined and wooded area, where four men were shot dead, a 50-year-old man and a nine-year-old boy were injured, one 13-year-old boy was let go, and two women were raped and abandoned at the scene, Falt said.

The Vietnamese ambassador has written a letter to UN peacekeepers alerting them to the incident, Falt said, declining to reveal the contents of the correspondence.

Falt said the United Nations was not previously aware of the border incursion.

Two of the men who were shot were 60 years old, identified as Diev Me and Diev Krit. Two others, Diev Vang and Thi Krong, were 22 and 18 years old, Falt said.

A UN task force was being deployed to the area to conduct an investigation, he said.

In another unrelated incident near Cambodia's border with Vietnam, unknown attackers threw a grenade into the home of FUNCINPEC party worker Om Yan in the Province of Svay Rieng, Falt said.

The official was not home at the time but his wife, 18-year-old son and two small daughters were all seriously injured.

FUNCINPEC, the non-communist party loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, is to challenge the Phnom Penh Government in UN-run elections scheduled for May 1993.

The United Nations is investigating the bombing, he said.

UNTAC To Remain 'Patient' With Khmer Rouge

BK2811031992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Nov 92 p A3

[Text] The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) will be "patient" in its attempt to prod the Khmer Rouge back into the peace process, Untac chief Yasushi Akashi said yesterday.

"We [Untac] will be patient and will keep the door open as long as possible for the Khmer Rouge to enter the peace process," Akashi said after paying a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri.

Untac military chief Lt Gen [Lieutenant General] John Sanderson said, however, he could not guarantee that fighting would not erupt anew in the wartorn country.

Sanderson said Untac has been carrying out its assignment to create a neutral environment for national elections as stipulated in the peace process which was signed by the four Cambodian factions last year.

The Cambodian people have signalled clearly that they want to participate in the general election scheduled to be held in April or May next year, Sanderson said.

Ahashi appeared somewhat annoyed when asked whether the failure to coax the Khmer Rouge into the peace agreement was because Untac had not totally implemented its assignment.

He said Untac had already responded to the Khmer Rouge's two main demands—to verify the absence of foreign troops in Cambodia and to strengthen the role of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC).

Mobile units were set up and are continuing to verify the absence of foreign troops and Untac has worked closely with the SNC to strengthen its roles, Akashi said.

However, Untac has never received a positive response or cooperation from the Marxist faction, he added.

Despite ceasefire violations by the Khmer Rouge, Akashi said Untac was determined that the peace process and the elections would proceed.

"I am optimistic that we can hold free and fair elections in April or May next year", he said.

Defectors Said To Join 'National Authorities'

BK2911021892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Nov 92

[From the "News Brief Feature"]

[Text] Sources in Prey Chhor district, Kompong Cham Province, say that 70 puppet civil servants and village and commune militiamen recently defected and asked to join the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] and the national authorities in Prey Chhor district, Kompong Cham province.

The report says that among the 70 defectors, 28 are civil servants at village level and 11 at commune level; the other 31 are village and commune militiamen. These compatriots brought along 14 SK rifles and 12 AR-15 rifles.

They told the national authorities and people in Prey Chhor district: We have clearly realized that the danger to our nation's survival is increasingly getting serious. Following the Paris agreement, more and more Vietnamese have flown into Cambodia with no one checking on them while the puppet leaders have been stuffing themselves and selling land, houses, state buildings, and schools to foreigners and pocketing the dollars. Therefore, our nation is facing serious danger. On the one hand, people have been brought in to carry out annexation, and on the other, there are scavenging foreigners in the country.

Up to now we have remained quiet and silent in exchange for peace. However, now it seems that we can no longer stay with Vietnam and the puppets because people in nearly all villages have armed themselves politically and with weapons to join with the NADK to fight against Vietnam and the puppets in villages and communes. These have been reporting almost daily.

Along Routes 7, 6, 21, and 24, and up to Kompong Cham provincial town, the Vietnamese and the puppets are constantly on alert because they are so afraid of the people. People everywhere hate them. Over the past 13-14 years, Vietnam and the puppet leaders have mercilessly skinned the people. Now the people are screaming for blood. Neither the Vietnamese nor their puppets nor the Vietnamese state authority nor its puppets can remain. Either today or tomorrow, they will start their flight or die in vain.

Khmer Rouge Activities Reported in Pursat

BK2911083392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Since the United Nations secretary general proposed that the UN Security Council refrain from imposing sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, the Khmer Rouge troops in Pursat Province have been stepping up their activities in violation of the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia by infiltrating a number of areas.

According to the Pursat provincial police department, the Khmer Rouge are currently shipping all types of armaments and war materiel to cache in some areas in preparation for offensive attacks.

Colonel Miech Chhin, Pursat Province's police superintendent, said Khmer Rouge elements from Division 18 in Phnum Kravanh District had sent eight trucks and numerous ox carts loaded with assorted weapons, ammunition, and war materiel through Route 56 via (Roung Khlav), Sala Lek Pi, and Ta Lou Commune in Bakan District to an area on coordinates [words indistinct] and a number of areas in Kompong Chhnang Province.

A group of 15 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Division 36 recently attacked Me Toek Commune in Bakan District, burning a commune office, an infirmary, and a police station and taking away 170,000 riels, an AK rifle, and a great deal of war materiel.

Col. Miech Chhin added that a group of Khmer Rouge troops had recently infiltrated a number of villages and communes in order to cajole the people out of taking part in the voter registration process currently being conducted by UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

These activities clearly show that the Khmer Rouge have not changed their cruel and barbarous nature and actions. The people, therefore, continue to suffer under their constant threat. Nevertheless, the State of Cambodia side and the inhabitants in Pursat Province, as well as the entire Cambodian people, are determined not to allow the Khmer Rouge to act at will.

Poll Registration, Judgment in Elections Urged

BK3011103192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 29 Nov 92

[KAMPUCHEA editorial: "Registering and Voting Are Important"]

[Text] Not much time is involved in voting correctly for the constituent assembly in Cambodia. This is a major political event which will be recorded in Cambodia's history as it is the result of the Paris agreement; organized, controlled, and assisted by the United Nations.

According to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) plan, the election will be held in May 1993. There is not much time left. In implementing Chapter D of Annex 1, [words indistinct] namely since 5 October 1992, poll registration has started in Phnom Penh. So far, this has also been carried out in provinces such as Mondolkiri.

What is worth noting is that in just over a month, over half a million Cambodians have already registered and received election cards. [Words indistinct] it is true that this is the most crucial time for our Cambodian people and the destiny of the entire nation. The last duty of the Cambodian people is to select a good political party, one with competence and experience in leading a government whose task is to rebuild and defend the country. So, what are the duties and obligations of our Cambodian people as worthy and noble citizens with full rights and freedom?

It is true that the Cambodian people enjoy full and inviolable rights as stated in the political platform of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], and in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Cambodian people have the right to decide on a political future through free and fair elections to elect a constituent assembly. The assembly will adopt a new Cambodian constitution and then become a legislative assembly that will set up a Cambodian Government to lead and administer the country. Therefore, in our hands and waiting to be used are our rights and destiny.

So far, 20 political parties have unveiled themselves; 13 have already registered with UNTAC to take part in the coming election. However, in general, of all these parties, Cambodians are most familiar with only four of them, namely the CPP, the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, and the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, called the Khmer Rouge Party. Cambodians have not heard of any other parties apart from the above.

Be that as it may, these parties are waiting for the last moment to get people's votes. Thus, a citizen with a sense of duty toward the nation, by judging, should know the true nature of each party before leaving or crossing a name out and dropping their vote into the ballot box. We should also carefully judge each party's pledges, and good and bad points to build and defend the country. We should not confuse white with black from instigations or slanders. Each ballot can honor the party that genuinely thinks of defending and saving the people; it can also help a party that lies and whose members lead extravagant lives; a party that amasses national wealth and then flees abroad; and a party that has not done anything to assist the people and the country. Some parties are even allies of the Khmer Rouge.

We should be careful about our mistakes, as this could be a gift to the genocidal group to lead these people to massacre again; this is possible. Therefore, as electorates, we should be careful and think long and hard before crossing off a name.

To enable each citizen to decide, the most important thing is that each Cambodian citizen must have an election card. Our people nationwide should register for election in their localities or other places to get an election card. The card entitles us to a ballot to choose the political party we like. But if we do not have a card, we cannot vote. The life and breath of each political party is in our people's hands. This is an opportunity for us to choose. But, do not forget to register to get an election card and to vote.

Minister: Embargo Not Enough Against Khmer Rouge

BK0112141692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT 1 Dec 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, Dec 1 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government said Tuesday a U.N. Security Council-imposed oil embargo against the Khmer Rouge did not go far enough, and warned of an imminent offensive by the radical faction that would again plunge Cambodia into civil war.

U.N. peacekeepers reported new shelling in central Cambodia, which left wounded two Phnom Penh government policemen and a young boy. U.N. peacekeepers were investigating the attack, which hit the provincial capital of Kompong Chhnang overnight Saturday, spokesman Eric Falt said.

The Security Council resolution, adopted Monday with only China abstaining, also threatens a freeze on Khmer Rouge assets abroad should the faction obstruct the U.N. peace plan. It also asks Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) to act to restrict export of gems and minerals, which emanate from Khmer Rouge-controlled areas to the tune of about 10 million dollars per month, according to expert estimates. [passage omitted]

"These kind of soft sanctions are quite welcome, but of course we would like to see sanctions commensurate to the extent of the Khmer Rouge violations" of the peace treaty ending the civil war, Phnom Penh senior advisor and deputy minister Uch Kim An told a press conference.

"For the immediate future there might not be any effect on the Khmer Rouge because already they have accumulated supplies to be used for many more years," he said. "They have been preparing for war for a long time."

He said the faction was assembling 1,700 guerrillas in the disputed central province of Kompong Thom in preparation to take control of the provincial capital and cut off a crucial highway leading west to the border with Thailand.

"The Khmer Rouge don't care about the Paris (peace) agreement," he said. "This is a very strategic area. If they can occupy Kompong Thom, that would give them the strategic advantage and they can launch an offensive to take over all of Cambodia."

Such a large-scale attack would seem to nullify what is left of the peace accords and negate the role of U.N. peacekeepers in Cambodia, since there would be no peace to keep. [passage omitted]

The resolution also said the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) should continue preparing for free and fair elections throughout Cambodia before May 1993—with or without Khmer Rouge participation. It pushed back the deadline for voter registration to January 31 to give the faction more time to rejoin the peace process.

"We are disappointed the U.N. has moved the goalpost again for voter registration," Uch Kim An said. "They are giving the Khmer Rouge one extra month to comply."

The Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia between April 1975 and January 1979, during which time they attempted to impose a radical Marxist agrarian society. They are blamed for the deaths of more than one million Cambodians.

Chea Sim Praises Late Lao Leader's Achievements

BK2811071192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Summary from poor reception] A ceremony was held this morning at the festival hall in Phnom Penh to pay homage to the late presdent of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] Kaysone Phomvihan.

"At 0800, the presiding committee arrived and paid tribute to the late Kaysone Phomvihan, respected and beloved leader of the entire Lao nation. The presidium included His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense; H.E. Say Phuthang, chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; H.E. Chea Soth, H.E. Sar Kheng, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and interior minister; H.E. Say Chhum, standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; H.E. General Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and defense minister; Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; H.E. Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Men Sam-an, chairman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions; H.E. Nguon Nhel, agriculture minister; H.E. Ney Pena, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; H.E. Gen. Sin Song, national security minister; H.E. Gen. Ke Kimyan, first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Army." H.E. Chea Sim then read a eulogy.

[Begin Chea Sim recording] The death of H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan is a loss not just for the Lao party, Government, front, and people but also a loss for the peace movement.

"During the 17 years under the correct and clear-sighted leadership of H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, the Lao party, Government, and people have scored great achievements in implementing a policy of reform aimed at building and defending the Lao motherland. The government of H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan vigorously contributed to the strengthening and expansion of the relations of friendship, solidarity, and multiform cooperation between Cambodia and Laos and to the defense of peace in Southeast Asia and in the world.

"H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan is a great friend of the Cambodian party and people. The party and Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and the entire Cambodian people would like to express profound gratitude for the tireless efforts of H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan himself and those of the Lao party, Government, and people to provide moral and material support to the Cambodian people's struggle to get rid of the danger from the past until the signing of the Paris peace agreement on 23 October 1991 aimed at bringing peace and national reconciliation to the Cambodian people under the astute and clear-sighted leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, father of the nation, and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]. H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan has indeed left this world but the traditional relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between Cambodia and Laos will remain and will be successively strengthened and expanded.

"Faced with this great loss and sadness, we firmly believe that the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the LPDR Government, the front, and all nationalities of the Lao people, under the leadership of H.E. Nouhak Phomsavan and H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, will transform this sadness into a determination to successfully implement the policy of reform adopted by the Lao party, Government, and people. May the soul of the late H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan go to a good world and protect the Lao people all the time." [end recording]

Replying H.E. (Bounli Opsalavong), Lao acting charge d'affaires in Cambodia, stressed:

[Begin (Bounli Opsalavong) recording] On behalf of the Lao Embassy in the SOC, the party and government of the LPDR, and the Lao people, we would like to express our most profound gratitude to the Cambodian party, Government, and people for organizing the ceremony to pay respect to H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan.

"Athough H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan has left our world for good, we and all nationalities of the Lao people firmly and strongly believe that the longstanding relations of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between Laos and Cambodia remain a fine tradition of our two nations. H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan in particular had during his lifetime made efforts to nurture this relationship. This will continue to be expanded and consolidated day by day." [end recording]

"This ceremony ended at 0810. The presidium, local and foreign guests, and all the participants filed out of the festival hall with sadness and regret over the loss of an eminent leader of the Lao people."

Heng Samrin Greets Newly Elected Lao President

BK2811134992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 28 Nov 92

["Message of Congratulations from His Excellency Heng Samrin to His Excellency Nouhak Phoumsavan"—dated 28 November; read by announcer]

[Text] Your excellency: On behalf of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], the State Council of the State of Cambodia [SOC], and the Cambodian people and in my own name, I extend the warmest congratulations on your nomination as president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

Your election to the supreme post in the present circumstances when the Lao party, Government, and people are successfully implementing the reform policy, has further elevated the LPDR's image in the international arena, contributing to the safeguard of peace and stability in Asia and the world.

I am firmly confident that, under your leadership, the friendship and solidarity and multifarious cooperation between our two nations and peoples will be further expanded and strengthened.

May you have the best of health and achieve new, still greater successes in the performance of your noble tasks.

Your excellency, please, accept my highest regards.

Chakkrapong, Other Ministers Visit Singapore

BK2711075792 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 27 Nov (SPK)—Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC], said that after the Khmer Rouge representatives' return to the Mixed Military Working Group, the cease-fire violations have markedly escalated compared with the period when they were absent. He made this remark during his meeting in Singapore on Wednesday, 25 November, with Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng.

Prince Chakkrapong was in Singapore for a five-day visit at the head of an SOC delegation which also included Sin Song, minister of national security; Im Chhunlim, minister of education; and Chan Phin, minister of Industry. The delegation was to end the visit on Thursday, 26 November.

Concerning the intransigent position of the Khmer Rouge in the implementation of the Paris peace accords, the prince explained that the guerrilla group could not accept democracy. The Khmer Rouge know that the people hate them and will not vote for them during the upcoming elections, he said.

They agreed to sign the peace accords on 23 October 1991 only so that they would not be excluded from the political settlement that otherwise might brand them as rebel forces, the prince stressed.

Vice Chairman Chakkrapong added that the SOC has strictly respected the accords and has already demobilized 30 percent of its Armed Forces.

On that occasion, Minister Wong Kan Seng said he wished peace would be promptly restored to build a Cambodia as developed as other countries in Southeast Asia.

Hun Sen Visits, Talks to Takeo Province Cadres

BK3011071292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] On the morning of 26 November at the office of the people's committee in Takeo Province, His Excellency Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, accompanied by H.E. General Pol Saroeun, deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Cambodian People's Army; Sok An, chef de cabinet of the CPP Central Committee and deputy interior minister; Nhim Vanda, trade minister; and many other leading officials, talked to core cadres from various localities in Takeo Province.

For a whole day, H.E. Hun Sen listened to reports summarizing results achieved in the past 11 months by the local state authority in cooperation with the people in the field of production to further improve the life of our compatriots and people.

Speaking on this occasion H.E. Hun Sen expressed joy over the meeting with core cadres in Takeo Province. H.E. Hun Sen highly valued the achievements in many fields scored by Takeo Province in the past nearly 14 years. He also called on core cadres to continue paying attention to joining the people to contribute to restoring, building, and further developing the province's economy.

Concerning the implementation of the peace agreement, H.E. Hun Sen pointed out the efforts of the party and State of Cambodia's Government to find genuine peace for the Cambodian people. However, the Khmer Rouge have violated the peace agreement by causing destruction in a number of provinces. He highlighted the aspiration of the party and the State of Cambodia's Government to hold the presidential election before that of the constituent assembly in order to choose an outstanding personality to lead the country toward peace, security, glory, and happiness.

Chea Sim Opens National Health Conference 26 Nov

BK2711024092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim—chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, National Assembly, and National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense—presided over the 1992 national health conference at the Health Ministry on the morning of 26 November. At the three-day conference, the participants will review the performance of health work in 1992 and set forth targets for implementation in 1993. In addition, there will also be a discussion with assisting international health organizations on the formulation of health plans and policies, immunization programs, the organization of health networks in various district hospitals, the establishment of health information centers, and the use of essential drugs.

Voicing his view on that occasion, Chairman Chea Sim highly valued the efforts by our medical staff to promote the people's health and their important contributions to the tasks of rehabilitating and rebuilding the country and nation. He also spoke about our country's current situation concerning the implementation of the Paris accord and reasserted the goodwill of the CPP and the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC], which have strived to make the execution of every phase of the accord successful. In particular, the SOC side has created all favorable conditions for UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to play its role in the country, while the Khmer Rouge have continued to breach the accord. He urged the delegates to exchange views and draw good experiences in order to achieve high efficiency in the implementation of tasks in the health field for 1993.

Number, Role of Thai Businessmen Scrutinized

BK2911033292 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 29 Nov 92 p 20

[Text] "Cambodia is like a woman who was raped multiple times," commented an ASEAN diplomat based in Phnom Penh, when asked to describe this war-torn country, one year after the signing of the Paris peace agreements on October 23, 1991.

While war has ended on the documents of the United Nations, Cambodian people, especially those in the capital, are living in the real world of two never ending wars—one between a few diehard traditional foes and the other more recent one, between foreign businessmen out to make megabucks in Cambodia.

Since the 1988 policy initiative by then prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan to change the Indochinese battlefield into a market place, Thai businessmen have been the first to pour millions of baht into this war torn country.

Cambodia, whose government of Premier Hun Sen was set up by "[Vietnamese] foreign forces" was then and is still officially under international economic embargo until a "universally recognised government" is set up after general election, scheduled for May 1993 ..

A few months before the return of Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia in November 1991, after 13 years in exile, the number of Thai businessmen was estimated to be less than one hundred and their number one business was land and property speculation in anticipation of the arrival of the UN, even though land ownership rights was still unclear.

Today, a year later, Thai businessmen and their Thai staff are estimated to be in the thousands, their background is varied, from the no-name, to the nouveau riche, and the rich and famous of the Thai-Chinese business circle in Thailand, not to mention Thai government officials and even Thai academics.

The nature of Thai investment has become less speculative and more longterm: restaurants, banks, airlines, hotels, apartments and office space for rent, construction and supplies, import-export, a bread factory, logging and gem mining, and believe or not, a Thai traditional massage parlour.

However, many Thai businessmen are still deeply involved in land and property speculation the prospect of quick money is just too irresistible, and they do not make a secret of it.

"Why not," commented a Thai businessman who declined to be identified.

"And if people accuse us of colonising Cambodia, so what? It's like what the Japanese did in Thailand and in many other countries as well. And if we don't, others will," he added.

Another Thai businessman, Banyat Samakkan, general manager of the Phnom Penh Floating Hotel, commented on how easy and active land and property speculation was in Cambodia. "We don't even have to go anywhere, [Cambodian] people come to us and offer."

However several Thai businessmen interviewed by Post Enquiry in Phnom Penh predicted that land and property prices would soon reach saturation point. "It's just getting too expensive for prospective buyers, also confidence in the political situation is deteriorating."

The Thai Permanent Mission to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) headed by Ambassador Sunai Bunyasiriphan, is working very hard to keep Thai businessmen in line with the principles of mutual benefit and mutual respect in their business dealings with Cambodians.

But it is not so easy when money talks.

The Thai business presence is blamed for fuelling corruption among officials of the Phnom Penh government leading to the conclusion of unfair business deals, sales of government property, including property of national importance, pollution and environmental destruction, high inflation.

And more importantly, the Thai business presence is blamed for its "I'm superior-I-can-anything-attitude" towards the Cambodian people.

Thai businessmen appear to be unmoved by the forced eviction of local residents from the land and property they have lived on for many years, they also appear too impatient to train local manpower and therefore import Thai workers or hire Vietnamese workers to man their business.

Also, they openly violate Cambodia's laws—immigration (purchase of visas for Thai workers to enter Cambodia, work permits, Cambodian identity cards), customs, and taxation.

But believe it or not, the majority of Thai businessmen interviewed by Post Enquiry in Phnom Penh, say they "like the country and the people."

But they say that one way to do business in Cambodia was through connections, even though a Law on Foreign Investment was promulgated in July 1989 and most importantly, even though their connections may not be able to stay in power forever.

"It is not that we have no respect for Cambodian law, but it is a reality in Cambodia that if you don't pay their phu yai [senior personalities], you can't do business, so the choice is not really ours," commented a Thai businessman.

He added "connections are very normal, the higher your connections, the more secure your business, that's how it works, you just can't go by the book."

The businessman, who owns one of Phnom Penh's most famous Thai restaurants said his connections facilitated the purchase of the beautiful villa, then at 3 million baht, which currently houses his restaurant, customs clearance for bringing in material for renovation and decorations, and visas to fly in Thai workers to do the repairs.

Also, his connections presently facilitate the import of ingredients from Thailand, "no tax," and also work permits "without time limit" for the Thai cooks, kitchen staff, waiters and waitresses, etc.

"We can also easily buy Cambodian identity cards, at some 5,000-7,000 baht," he added.

"If you're interested to get a Cambodian ID, I can help you," the businessman told Post reporters during the interview.

Also, his connections enable him to pay "token income tax."

However, he added that he was investing in Cambodia, "Sanuk, sanuk [just for fun]. I came here two years ago and I really like the country and the people, and I want to spend time here."

He claimed that the villa and the restaurant was registered under the name of a Cambodian Phu Yai, "if something goes wrong I loose everything here."

Asked why he was taking the risk, "it's hard to explain, something tells me I should invest here."

He added he was involved in the garment industry in Thailand and would not be affected much by losses in Cambodia.

"I'm thinking long term, I want my restaurant to be established in Cambodia, but if for some reason, it's not possible, I think I can easily survive the loss, that's one of the reasons why I decided to investment here," he said.

Other Thai businessmen also operate on similar lines of thinking.

"If there is so much problems and we really can't stay here, we'll just sail our ship back home," commented Banyat of the Phnom Penh Floating Hotel.

Banyat added that he was confident of the future of Cambodia and the potential of the Cambodian people.

"Cambodian people want to work and they have the potential to get the economy going and rebuild their country, only if they can be free from fear. Life is so cheap here," Banyat commented.

The hotelier has been in Phnom Penh for only a few weeks and have already seen two bodies floating down the Tonle Sap. "The first week, it was a man, and last week it was a woman," he said.

"We called the police, but they would not respond. It's sad, anything can happen to you and nobody would care," he said.

Thai Ambassador Sunai said the Thai government did not and would not control the flow of Thai people into Cambodia.

"However, our position is clear, we do not support any illegal activities by Thai businessmen in Cambodia," he said.

Ambassador Sunai warned Thai businessmen that buying Cambodian identity cards was a violation of Thailand's naturalisation law which prohibits dual citizenship.

"This would only cause trouble to the businessmen when they need help from Thailand, since they will have to be investigated first to determine their nationality," he said.

The Thai Permanent Mission to the SNC is currently compiling a file on Thai investment here. Ambassador Sunai estimates Thai investment in Cambodia at "several billion [baht]."

Regarding strong criticism of Thai investment in Cambodia, "maybe Thailand is too close to the Cambodian situation," said Sunai.

"Maybe too many Thais come to Cambodia, but it is the same perception that we have about Japanese investment and Japanese people in Thailand.

"Maybe too many Thais come but at the same time, we are helping to develop the country by creating jobs transfer, technology and skills, especially in the service industry in which we have much experience.

"Also, the Thai presence here is in the open, there are a few other countries, which are more active than Thailand is but are not seen in the open."

The ambassador was apparently referring to Singaporean businessmen who have invested in Cambodia before 1988 and whose capital investment here is said to be number one.

Singaporean investment here is not much different from those of the Thai: real estate development, supplies of construction material, import-export, especially of second hand machinery and consumer products.

Ambassador Sunai added that it was also the responsibility of the local authorities in Cambodia to control these activities, and what investment they do not wish to see in their country.

The Thai Permanent Mission has offered to provide the State of Cambodia with profiles of Thai businessmen and companies for it to decide whether to allow them to invest in Cambodia.

But so far the SOC has never requested any assistance from the Permanent Mission while it is granting more and more business concessions and contracts.

Property Situation in Phnom Penh Examined

BK2911035892 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 29 Nov 92 p 21

[Text] Literally all Phnom Penh residents living in houses or on land without title deeds issued by the "proper authorities" can wake up one day to be forcibly evicted from their homes to make way for foreign investment.

The signing of the Paris peace agreements on October 23, 1991, not only officially ended the war between the four rival Cambodian factions, but it also launched a frenzy of business deals in real estate in Phnom Penh.

Former East Bloc diplomats commented that the local powers that be had to raise as much money as possible in light of the uncertain political future and the one sure way to do so was to sell off property to foreign businessmen, including those belonging to long time occupants.

It is not known how many Phnom Penh residents had been forced out of their homes or land, and whether those who had been compensated received a fair compensation, or were not intimidated into accepting one.

According to the Civil Administration of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the most serious problem for residents of Phnom Penh is land disputes and expulsion.

"This has started to submerge all that we are doing," commented Eduardo Vetere, director of UNTAC's Civil Administration in Phnom Penh.

UNTAC has set up civil administration in Cambodia's 21 provinces with the function to coordinate the various components of UNTAC and also to liaise with the local authorities of the State of Cambodia (SOC).

Its responsibility includes human rights (information/education, monitoring police activities, courts, prisons, and so on), and finance (controlling revenues and expenditures, tax, contracts and leases, import/export, licensing, etc.)

There is also an office to receive complaints.

"We receive complaints everyday and just to receive them takes time," said Vetere, explaining that translation was needed and in case where there is not enough information or not enough evidence, it had to be gathered which takes even more time considering limited resources.

"It is extremely difficult to really do a proper job, at the expense of other jobs," said Vetere.

But the most important constraints of UNTAC's civil administration is not time or resources, but rather a resistance from the local authorities of the SOC to the process of democratisation and human rights.

For the People's Committee of Phnom Penh City, land disputes and expulsion are only "small problems."

Kry Beng Hong, vice president of the People's Committee of Phnom Penh City said "It is not for UNTAC to get involved in small problems, not to solve the daily quarrel between Cambodian people."

"Even though we know very well our culture, we are still unable to solve the problem. UNTAC comes from abroad. If they accept to solve all problems, they will lose in Cambodia. UNTAC should solve the main problem of peace.

"It is only small problems, Cambodian people can solve, UNTAC should look at the big problem of peace. Daily problems are a waste of time, the main objective for UNTAC is peace," he said.

Kry Beng Hong added that his office welcomed UNTAC's help to draft various new laws to move the country forward, "but we don't wish UNTAC to use human rights to protect squatters."

He said there are "some evictions but we pay in US dollars or in gold because people are afraid of inflation."

Kry Beng Hong explained that since 1979 Cambodia has followed the socialist system and has considered all houses and land belong to the state.

He said that since 1989, the National Assembly declared that all occupants become the owners except "[for] public land and buildings.

"In the urban area, people can own houses or buildings, but not the land, we reserve the right to improve the land [for infrastructure]," he said.

The State of Cambodia is yet to give full definition of "public land and buildings."

Vetere stressed the situation of Cambodia today is the result of the Pol Pot years, during which the entire professional class was wiped out.

"There are a number of laws but the majority was drafted in a period of little separation of power. Following the Marxist/communist model, everything is supposed to be in conformity with party directives," he said.

The local counterpart of UNTAC's civil administration is the municipality of Phnom Penh, and many times, the municipality just brushed aside its responsibility and claims it cannot interfere with decisions made by other ministries, especially the Defence Ministry.

"We realise that the number of people evicted without compensation by the Defence Ministry is high, but in this country, it depends on who can make the 'legitimate claim'," said Vetere.

He added that in order to deal more effectively and to install a climate of full cooperation with the authorities, and not adversary type of relationship, a joint review/clarification committee was set up to review cases, suggest appropriate measures, and so on.

Vetere said the office had also requested a list of transaction and inventory from various ministries in October.

But so far, the ministries are yet to comply with the UNTAC request.

"It is impossible to really understand the situation today without taking into account the Pol Pot years: Phnom Penh a city of two million people, became a desert, nothing was left here. The people and also the system.

"When the new government took over, it faced the situation where it had to start absolutely from scratch without any professionals left in the country.

"At that time, the international community was absent from the scene and the only support it [the country] had came from the East Bloc and Vietnam.

"And this is what they did," said Vetere.

In 1979, the policy of the Hun Sen regime was to populate an empty Phnom Penh and people were allowed to pick their choice of houses and land, "even the government did, they had very little money," said Vetere.

It was understood then the occupants of houses and land, were the owners, but none had any title deeds.

Vetere said the situation changed a few years ago, when the Hun Sen regime undertook "some kind of privatisation."

In 1989, occupants could apply for ownership.

Vetere said that since then some five million people have applied for the right of ownership but so far only 200,000 applications have been processed.

"This means that most of the Cambodian people are still living in places without formal title," he said.

Vetere added that his office was trying to coordinate with the UNTAC military component for the Defence Ministry to at least give advance notice and compensation so that people would not be evicted by force.

"The progress is slow, we cannot pretend that it can happen all of a sudden because you send 20,000 people to Cambodia. "UNTAC is here to change this mentality and change the system so that abuse of human rights does not happen again-" said Vetere.

He added that the fact that Cambodian people openly complained was a very important element in the peace and democratisation process in Cambodia.

"It is tremendously important, not only to the future development of Cambodia. The main purpose of UNTAC here is to try to ensure an environment free from fear so that free and fair elections can be conducted," he said.

Indonesia

Editorial Hails Improvement of Australian Ties

BK2911131992 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 18 Nov 92 p 2

[Editorial: "The Australian-Indonesian Ministerial Forum"]

[Text] The first Australian-Indonesian ministerial forum, which took place in Jakarta on 16 and 17 November 1992, was the climax of good relations between the two countries. Relations between the two neighboring countries have experienced ups and downs since Australia consistently supported Indonesia's struggle for independence in 1945.

The presence of five Australian ministers in Jakarta reinforced the growing need for developing "good-neighborly political" relations between the two countries. Australia is, thus, giving top priority to bilateral relations as the two countries are situated in the southwest Pacific. In fact, the ministerial forum was nothing new as it was agreed upon by President Suharto and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating during the latter's visit to Indonesia 21 to 24 April 1992.

The five Australian ministers were John Button, minister of industry, technology, and commerce representing the Australian prime minister; Gareth Evans, minister of foreign affairs and trade; Kim Beazley, minister of employment, education, and training; Alan G. Griffiths, minister of tourism and resources; and Simon Crean, minister of primary industries and energy.

The Indonesian side was represented by 10 ministers in the forum. Drs. [academic title] Radius Prawiro, coordinating minister for economics, finance, and industry; and Ali Alatas, minister of foreign affairs, acted as chief delegate and deputy chief delegate respectively. Minister Radius Prawiro told newsmen following the meeting that the two sides agreed to enhance bilateral economic relations not only within the international framework, but also within the regional framework like the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC].

According to Radius Prawiro, the two countries deemed it necessary to develop APEC because high growth in Asia would have positive effects on countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The Indonesian side said that regional cooperation should not lead to protectionism and that Indonesia and the other ASEAN countries had agreed to adopt the free trade system despite the establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA].

Four bilateral agreements were signed on 17 November after working groups established by the two countries discussed various aspects of cooperation. The agreements dealt with mutual investment protection, scientific and technological cooperation, copyright, education and training, and customs arrangements.

We believe that better approaches between the two neighboring countries in the southwest Pacific have been motivated by mutual interests as well as designed to respond to various global changes that affect the political and economic situation in the region.

Geographically speaking, Australia is part of the Asia-Pacific region although the majority of its people are ethnically and culturally Anglo-Saxon. Thus, they are more oriented to the West. In facing future challenges, they, however, now seem to be aware of their interests in the Asia-Pacific region. Like it or not, that country must cooperate with Asia-Pacific countries, including Indonesia.

The establishment of the European single market to which Britain belongs, the North American Free Trade Area [NAFTA], and AFTA may isolate Australia. Certainly, such isolation will not be beneficial. By developing good relations with Asia-Pacific countries, particularly Indonesia, Australia can strive to defend common interests in the face of growing economic protectionism in the world.

In addition, things that may pose as obstacles such as charges about trade dumping [preceding word in English] can be avoided thanks to growing bilateral relations. Thanks to the better approaches, interpretations that may lead to a misunderstanding can be avoided. Thus, bilateral relations, which were at their lowest ebb during the liberation of West Irian, the Indonesian-Malaysian confrontation, the Free Papua issue, David Jenkins's article [about the Suharto family] in THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, and the labor boycott over the East Timor issue, will not face the same fate again.

We realize that public opinion in the two countries, particularly Australia, does not always share the view of its respective government. Thus, it is hoped that efforts to promote the approaches are not limited to the governments only but extended to all social strata in the two countries.

Finance Minister: AFTA Not Obstacle to Australia

BK0112120992 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 17 Nov 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS. The Indonesian Government has given its assurance that the ASEAN Free Trade

Area (AFTA), which is based on the formulation of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff [preceeding term in English] (CEPT), will not obstruct Australia's access to ASEAN markets because the Indonesian Government is confident that a strong ASEAN will further strengthen its members' stance. Besides this, it will also strengthen their bonds with their bilateral trading partners—a stronger APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) would bring about mutual benefit for all.

The Indonesian Government's assurance was stated by Radius Prawiro, coordinating minister for economy, finance, industry, and development supervision in his address at the inauguration of the Indonesia-Australia Forum on Monday (16 November) at the Foreign Department at Pejambon.

Australia was represented by its minister of industry, technology and commerce, Senator John Norman Button (59), who simultaneously acted as the Australian prime minister's representative; Senator Gareth Evans (48),minister of foreign affairs and trade; Senator Kim Christian Beazley (44), minister of employment, education, and training; and Simon Crean (43), minister of primary industries and energy; while representing Indonesia were Radius Prawiro (64), Industry Minister Hartarto (60), Mines and Energy Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita (51), Foreign Minister Ali Alatas (60), Trade Minister Arifin Siregar (58) and Cooperatives Minister Bustanil Arifin (67). Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Philip Flood and Indonesian Ambassador to Australia Sabam Siagian also attended the forum.

Before the inauguration of the forum, the five Australian ministers, who were accompanied by Finance Minister Radius Prawiro, paid a courtesy call on President Suharto at the Merdeka Palace.

Speaking to newsmen after the forum, Australian delegation leader John Button said Indonesia and Australia jointly pledged to upgrade bilateral cooperation, placing a greater focus on economic and cultural aspects. He said, "We discussed several issues pertaining to a wider scope of bilateral cooperation in the effort to eliminate misunderstandings between the two countries."

He considered existing Indonesia-Australia bilateral relations good, particularly after Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating's visit to Indonesia last April. Even though it was a bit late, they nevertheless extended their felicitations to President Suharto on being elected chairman of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM).

Radius Prawiro, leader of the Indonesian delegation, expressed the need for further discussions concerning more issues on bilateral cooperation. He said, "That was the reason why we delved into issues of bilateral cooperation during the two-day ministerial-level forum. In addition, we will hold bilateral discussions on related issues on a ministerial basis. I sincerely hope that all efforts are channeled toward concrete proposals which can be implemented on new Indonesia-Australia bilateral cooperation modalities."

Meanwhile, John Button, in his address, stated that Australia welcomed AFTA as ASEAN's coordinated effort to further boost the group's economic trade and growth in the ASEAN region. [passage omitted]

Alatas Leaves To Attend ICO Meeting on Bosnia

BK3011160192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas left for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia today to attend the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] special meeting to discuss the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue.

Following his appointment as a member of the People's Consultative Assembly at the Parliament House in Jakarta today, Minister Ali Alatas said the conference which is to be held from 1 to 3 December will be the second ICO session on the Bosnian issue. He hoped the conference will be able to reach a consensus on measures to intensify the roles of the United Nations, ICO, and the London conference to resolve the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue. He said these measures are important because even though the UN has adopted several resolutions, the people in Bosnia-Hercegovina are still suffering from the aggression of Serbia.

According to Minister Altas, Indonesia shares the same attitude with other ICO member countries in being very concerned about the unending struggle of the Bosnians and has decided to attend the second ICO's special session in Jeddah.

Minister: Debt Crippling Third World Development

BK0112092092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0820 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 1 (OANA/ANTARA)—Debt burdens have slashed third world countries' development funds and reduced their ability to improve the socio-economic life of their peoples, Coordinating Minister for Economy, Finance and Industries Radius Prawiro has said. The external debt problems should be solved to prevent economic stagnation in developing countries, the minister said after opening a meeting of expert team on debt of developing countries here on Monday.

He said, the external debts of such countries had doubled over the past decade, causing economic backwardness. The minister disclosed that their debts ten years ago totalled 700 billion US dollars, but now have reached 1.4 trillion US dollars. The economic condition of the developing countries has been worsened by the global recession in the 1980s and protectionism which hampered their export drive. At the same time, the interest and installment of their debts also kept on increasing.

During the decade, the economy of most Third World countries experienced stagnation and backwardness, Radius said. He said there were initiatives taken by creditor countries in reducing the debt burdens, such as the Toronto terms agreed upon by the Group of Seven industrialized nations (G-7) and the step taken by France to alleviate the debts of Francophone developing countries. But these steps are not yet adequate and a guarantee that funds will flow into developing countries is needed to carry out development policies in the 1990s, the minister added.

The developing countries, therefore, considered it important to hold a high level consultation to discuss the solution to their debt problems, Radius explained.

The high level meeting is in line with the results of the 10th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) here on September 1-6, which also discussed such problems.

In preparations for the meeting, an expert team on the debts of developing nations needs to gather, the minister said. He said that the meeting is expected to enhance the bargaining power of the developing countries and to seek the way out from the debt problems.

The expert team which is chaired by Dr. Gamani Corea, former UNCTAD [UN Conference on Trade and Development] secretary general, will meet until December 2.

Paper Details Arrest of Fretilin Leader

BK0112104092 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 21 Nov 92 p 1

[By Jacob Herin]

[Text] DILI (JP)—Xanana Gusmao, the leader of the Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] armed rebel movement, was arrested by Armed Forces troops at a village near here yesterday.

East Timor Military Field Commander, Brigadier General Theo Syafei, told The JAKARTA POST yesterday afternoon that Xanana was arrested with the assistance of local people at 6 a.m. yesterday morning in Lahane Village, three kilometers south of this provincial capital. He was caught in a citizen's house, near Wirahusada Hospital.

The military announced here yesterday that the leader of the armed separatist group, which has been seeking to establish the former Portuguese colony as an independent state, was being questioned by security officers. "His arrest and detention are being done according to law," the announcement said.

Asked whether Xanana asked anything of him, Gen. Syafei said he had begged, saying "please spare me, my family and my parents."

Several high-ranking officers were seen at the detention house yesterday. They were Air Force Chief of Staff Marshal Sibun, Major General Suwardi, the Denpasar-based Udayana Military Commander whose jurisdiction includes East Timor, and Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Nurhadi Purwosaputro.

Sources here said that Xanana, 45, was captured by Captain Tedy L. when he was fast asleep. He was said to be very shocked when his hands were grabbed by the Red Beret officer.

When questioned by the POST in the East Timorese Tetum dialect at the detention house, the rebel leader would not confirm nor deny that he had masterminded the anti-government demonstration here which developed into a bloody riot on November 12, last year.

According to the government account, 50 people were killed when the demonstrators clashed with troops.

Xanana, who wore dark brown trousers and a long-sleeved shirt, looked morose although he had smiled when he shook hands with the military officers.

Governor Abilio Jose Soares who cut short his visit to Marlatuto regency, 60 kilometers east of here after hearing the news of the rebel's capture, said after a meeting with Xanana "Today is a historic day for this province."

He said that Xanana was known as a "very good boy who always avoided fighting" when they were students at a junior high school in Matatuto. "He was so patient and had no enemy whatsoever."

Soares reminisced that Xanana's hobby had been playing football, when they were in school. He said Xanana later studied journalism in Australia.

The governor also said that the arrest showed the world that Fretilin had never posed any problem for Indonesia.

"What we should do now is to extract further more information from him about the people behind him and later hunt them down."

Xanana, who was not well known as an activist during the Portuguese colonial era here, joined the leftist Fretilin (Frente Timorense Liberasao Nacionalista) party when, in the early 1970s, the Portuguese colonial authorities gave the green light to local people to form political parties here. He joined the rebel group in 1975 when a group of nationalists pushed party members into the jungle.

Laos

Press Release Issued on National Day Celebration

BK0112030892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Press release issued by Office of Council of Ministers on celebration of 17th anniversary of 2 December national day; dated 30 November]

[Text] To ministers of all ministries, heads of equivalent organizations in the center, provincial governors, and city mayors throughout the country:

On 18 November 1992, the prime minister issued an instruction No. 14/PM [Prime Minister] on the celebration of the 17th anniversary of the national day, 2 December. But, as preparations for the celebration of the 2 December national day this year have been made amid an atmosphere of profound sorrow as our Lao entire party, Army, and people grievously mourn the demise of Kaysone Phomvihan, our most beloved and respected leader, in order to turn the grief and sorrow into concrete revolutionary action and to encourage a spirit of revolutionary enthusiasm in the masses to successfully translate into reality tasks in the new stage, in celebrating the 2 December national day this year, the Council of Ministers, therefore, instructs all ministries, equivalent organizations, and all provinces and municipalities to organize the celebrations in accordance with the following themes and forms:

1. In celebration ceremonies, recall the traditions of the 2 December national day and the biography, achievements, virtues, revolutionary ethics, and outstanding examples of deceased President Kaysone Phomvihan, and regard these as the themes for educating, training, and encouraging the entire party, Army, and people to fulfill their tasks.

2. On the festival day, leaderships at various levels are requested to organize representatives to visit cadres and combatants who are receiving medical treatments at various hospitals and visit families of pensioned cadres as well as families of those who have performed meritorious deeds for the nation and people.

3. In celebrating the festival, all are requested to avoid luxurious, unnecessary entertainment activities.

4. Use the following encouragement slogans: Long Live the Lao People's Democratic Republic! Long Live the Spirit of 2 December National Day! Long Live the Lao People's Revolutionary Party! Welcome the election of members of the third National Assembly; Let the entire Lao party, army, and people unite as one and be determined to implement and translate into reality the restructuring policy of the party and state.

5. Vientiane municipality in particular is requested to organize a mass rally with the themes as mentioned in item one.

Heng Samrin Meets Khamtai Siphandon, Departs

BK3011145192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] received a courtesy call from Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party, in Vientiane capital on the morning of 30 November.

During the visit, both Khamtai Siphandon and Heng Samrin expressed grief over the demise of the late Lao President Kaysone Phomvihan who has gone forever, thus marking the greatest loss for Laos' party and government and the multiethnic Lao people.

On the occasion, both leaders informed each other on the internal situation in their respective countries and expressed views on the strengthening of ties and cooperation.

Khamtai Siphandon once again reaffirmed LPDR's consistent foreign policy principle to the guest, saying that Laos will always continue to implement the principle of peace, independence, and cooperation with every country on the basis of mutual interests. The Lao Government and people will support the implementation of the United Nations peace plan for Cambodia and hope that the Cambodian Government and people will achieve success in establishing peace and national reconstruction.

Later on the same morning, Heng Samrin led his delegation to return home on a special plane.

SRV's Do Moui Congratulates Khamtai Siphandon

BK3012154192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Message of congratulations from Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, CPV, to Khamtai Siphandon, on his election as chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee—dated 26 November]

[Text] On 26 November, Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, received a telegram of congratulations from Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, on the former's election to the post of chairman of the LPRP Central Committee.

The main content of the message reads:

On the election of the comrade as chairman of the LPRP Central Committee, on behalf of the CPV Central Committee and in my own name, we extend our wholehearted congratulations.

We firmly believe that under the leadership of the LPRP Central Committee and you, comrade—a staunch revolutionary, a talented and experienced leader, an outstanding son of the multiethnic Lao people and close friend of the Vietnamese people—the Lao people will successfully carry out the resolution of the fifth Congress of the LPRP, and attain greater achievements in renovating, defending, and building of a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous Laos.

May comrade have good health and achieve glorious successes in your noble tasks. We wish the special solidarity and all-round cooperation between the two parties, the two Governments, and the two peoples of Vietnam and Laos will gradually developed and expand for the rights and interests of the people in each country, as well as for peace, security, and development in this region and the world.

Philippines

Romulo Discounts Changing Defense Treaty

HK0112130792 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 1 Dec 92 p 16

[Report by Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] Moving to smooth diplomatic feathers ruffled by President Ramos's call for a "reexamination" of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty [MDT] Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo said over the weekend that "no rewriting of the MDT is called for."

During the Cubi Point turnover ceremonies last November 24, Mr. Ramos upset both Philippine and United States diplomats by asking for the inclusion of an "automatic retaliation" clauses and a categorical statement from the U.S. on the coverage of the MDT. There had been prior agreement—between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Department of State—that the coverage of the MDT be kept "ambiguous."

Mr. Romulo however, sought to clarify that "what the President called for,...what is needed is a review of the operational plans...within the framework of the MDT."

"The plans to defend the Philippines were drawn up in 1961. They were revised around 10 years ago. Obviously, given the changed security environment, there is a need to review these plans and draw up the corresponding modifications to reflect the current situation," Mr. Romulo said.

"No changes to the text of the MDT (are necessary). It stays as is," the foreign secretary said.

Meanwhile, a U.S. official said, with the withdrawal of the last U.S. forces from Subic, "it would be more difficult to ensure the external defense of the Philippines.

"We will still be in the region but not in the same numbers and, of course, the response time would be affected by the longer distances we would have to cover," the U.S. official told Business World.

While information sharing would continue, monitoring intrusions by foreign aircraft and vessels in Philippine airspace and territorial waters would be problematical.

"We have that 'eye in the sky', but without the complementary radar, the surveillance and intercept aircraft, the other systems,...we would just be able to tell you there are blips out there but we wouldn't be able to say for sure what type of aircraft, what type of vessel is violating your territorial boundaries," the U.S. official said.

Given the country's budgetary deficits, he believed the AFP [Armed Force of the Philippines] would find it impossible to set up a radar network which would cover the whole country. "I think you will have to content yourself with setting up at strategic points. Manila, Palawan, Southern Mindanao and so forth," he suggested.

Police Send More Personnel for Mindanao Elections

HK0112045592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Raul Imperial, Philippine National Police [PNP] deputy director, has sent another Special Action Force [SAF] battalion from Fort Bonifacio to Cotabato City to join the other three formerly sent to other provinces, making the total police strength more than four battalions. This is in preparation for the forthcoming Mindanao Autonomous Region elections this Saturday, 5 December. Imperial sent the additional PNP-SAF personnel to maintain peace and order in the region.

Chief Superintendent Pantaleon Dumlao, PNP director for operations, said sending more police to the Mindanao elections is in compliance with Commission on Elections Resolution No. 2516.

Troops Sent to Leyte To Drive Out NPA Rebels

HK3011065092 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Some 150 families in Barangay San Antonio, Hilongos, Leyte, were found by Police Deputy Director General Raul Imperial to be suffering after their area was infiltrated by the New People's Army [NPA]. Most of the residents are evacuating the area due to NPA abuses.

In his personal visit to the barangay, Imperial learned that the NPA rebels were forcing the residents to work at a nearby banana plantation without pay. Refusal by the residents to heed the rebels' orders could mean death.

Imperial has thus assigned the Philippine National Police [PNP] Rapid Deployment Force Battalion to the barangay.

Hilongos Vice Mayor Panfilo Go said that even if most of the town's residents own land, they could not plant crops due to the rebels' operations.

The residents asked to be allowed to carry arms, but Imperial refused. Instead, he said, the PNP will step up operations against the NPA to drive them out.

Samar Truce Holds; Civilians, Rebels Hold Talks

HK3011033492 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 30 Nov 92 p 11

[Text] The temporary truce in Eastern Samar is still in effect and holding almost for a full month now since the Armed Forces halted all offensives in the region to give civilian leaders the opportunity to talk with local rebels, a ranking military official yesterday said.

Brig. Gen. Romeo A. Padiernos, chief of the AFP's Civil Relations Service (CRSAFP), said the AFP high command has been encouraged by the turn of events in Eastern Visayas because there have been no major clashes with New People's Army (NPA) rebels since the 8th Infantry Division suspended offensive military operation last Nov. 1.

"The development in the Eastern Samar has shown that peace can easily be attainable if only the people and government will unite to form a common front for achieving peace" Padiernos said.

He cited the efforts of Gov. Lutgardo Barbo in mobilizing the local government, the military and non-government organizations for the provincewide peace process.

The truce covers the towns of Oras, Borongan, Arteche, San Policarpio, Dolores, Can Avid, Taft, Sulat, San Julia, Maydo-long, Balangkayan, Llorente, Hernani, Mac Arthur, Salcedo, Mercedes Guiuan, Hipapad, Maslog, Quinapondan, Giporlos, Balangiga and Lawaan.

The CRS [Civil Relations Service] chief said the local officials want to end the conflict and start an intensive development program to improve the standard of living in an area that has traditionally been guerrilla war front.

Padiernos noted that it was in Samar where the Americans got their worst beating during the Philippine-American war at the start of the century. The most publicized among those clashes was the Balangiga Massacre where 54 American soldiers were killed.

Chinese 'Soldiers' Reportedly Land in Pangasinan

HK3011094692 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Report by Mon Pagatpatan with anchorman Joe Taruc]

[Text] A ship carrying six officers of the Chinese armed forces anchored in Barangay Tambobong, Dasol, Pangasinan, 28 Nov.

A report obtained by Jerry Navarro of DWCM News said Dasol Police officials are now conducting an investigation because it was reported that several armed men were on the ship. A police progress report issued today said the armed men were officers of the Chinese Armed Forces. The report did not mention why the ship was anchored in Dasol or the names of the passengers.

[Taruc] Does that mean that the ship anchored without permission from military and police authorities in Pangasinan?

[Pagatpatan] It seems to be the case, Joe, because their arrival was a surprise. Only when the authorities investigated did they discover that the passengers were military officers from the People's Republic of China.

[Taruc] Without telling our government that they were coming?

[Pagatpatan] Yes. And there is speculation that this is one form of Chinese harassment due to the Spratlys issue.

[Taruc] Have you contacted military officials there in Pangasinan and asked their reaction to this intrusion by Chinese military officers?

[Pagatpatan] As a matter of fact, Joe, they are tightly guarding the Chinese and have not released any names. At present, they said they cannot release the names yet.

[Taruc] They might get embarrassed later. They do not want to release any names and the ranks of the Chinese soldiers because they may get embarrassed.

[Pagatpatan] It seems so, Joe, because the Chinese are armed, according to reports obtained by Jerry Navarro of DWCM News.

Police Say Chinese Not Military

HK0112104692 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] The six passengers of a Chinese vessel which anchored off the coast of Dasol [Pangasinan] are not Chinese military officers. The Philippine National Police [PNP] made this clarification today following a spot report that referred to the six as members of the Chinese military.

Reports indicate that the six officers referred to were actually six captains, who were forced to seek emergency shelter off the shores of Barangay Tambubong, Dasol, Pangasinan, when they encountered Typhoon Senyang while on their way back to China.

An investigation revealed that the six were passengers on the vessel (Hai Mein Fa), which came from another part of the world and was on its way back to China when it encountered the typhoon. [sentence as heard]) The six Chinese nationals were identified as Captain (Hing Muy Fang), Captain (Chu King), Captain (Chin Shu Oi), Captain (Cheung Yu Wanyu), Captain (Chun Chin Ding), and Captain (Lian Ching Fu).

Although the PNP has issued this clarification, we have learned that the six have been turned over to the PNP Provincial Command's investigation division.

New Human Rights Commissioner Takes Oath

HK0112060992 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Siegfried Ordonez, former ambassador to the UN, takes the oath at 1300 [0500 GMT] in Malacanang Palace as the new Human Rights commissioner, replacing acting official Samuel Soriano.

In connection with this, a symposium on human rights and the peace process is scheduled to be held at the Ateneo University. The symposium aims to discuss human rights in the country, particularly those related to military operations. National Unification Commission Chairperson Haydee Yorac, Philippine Army chief Lieutenant General Arturo Enrile, Satur Ocampo, and Bishop Teodoro Bacani are expected to join the assembly.

Prior to this, 3 December has been declared Human Rights Day. Highlights of the day will include the pledge of commitment to human rights which will be held simultaneously all over the country, to be led by President Fidel V. Ramos at Malacanang.

Secretarial, Ambassadorial Appointments Confirmed

HK2611102492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Members of the Commission on Appointments [CA] has unanimously approved during its plenary session the appointments of Roberto Romulo as secretary of Foreign Affairs, Roberto Sebastian as secretary of the Department of Agriculture, and Angel Alcala as secretary of the Department of Natural Resources.

Meanwhile, the appointments of Raul Rabe as ambassador to South Korea, Leonides Caday as ambassador to Bahrain, Sergio Barreras as ambassador to Italy, and Pablo Suarez as ambassador to the United States were also approved.

Only Senator John Osmena abstained from voting on Secretary Romulo's appointment, saying that Secretary Romulo's only qualification was the good name of his deceased father, Carlos P. Romulo, who served as the country's foreign affairs minister for a long time.

Ramos Speaks to Taiwanese Investors

HK2611034692 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] President Ramos has assured Taiwanese businessmen of their safety in the country as a delegation from Taiwan expressed interest to invest here, specifically in Subic.

In a press statement, the President was quoted as telling a 27-man delegation from Taiwan, "You will be safe here. The Government is doing everything to ensure your safety in the country."

The Taiwanese delegation members were officers of the Taipei Lion's Club.

The press statement said the chief executive "cited efforts of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC), chaired by Vice- President Joseph Estrada, and other law enforcement agencies to bring down the level of criminality in the country."

It added that "the President also stressed he will not tolerate scalawags in his government, adding that his administration is providing the necessary foundation for the country's economic takeoff."

The delegation, representing some 34,000 businessmen in Taiwan, expressed its intention to invest in the Subic Bay metropolitan area. Subic is being developed by government into an international commercial free port.

But despite peace and order problems, the statement quoted Shai Tat-liu, president of the Taipei Lions Club as saying they (Taiwanese businessmen) "are encouraged by the recent positive developments in the country, particularly, the president's initiative to liberalize the economy."

Kwang Long-hu, the chief delegate, said his group will visit investment sites during their visit in the country.

Exporters Urge Government To Act on Exchange Rate

HK3011032392 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 30 Nov 92 p 2

[Report by Micheline Millar]

[Text] Exporters urged Government to heed the proposals made by local and international economic experts on the country's foreign exchange rate, which has been unfavorable to the export sector for the most part of the year.

Paterno H. Dizon, chairman of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (Philexport), told BUSINESS WORLD some of the country's leading economic institutions, as well as the World Bank, have a unified view that something has to be done with the country's peso-dollar exchange rate to help the export sector.

He noted that studies made by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, the Center for Research and Communication and the University of the Philippines School of Economics have recognized that the continuing appreciation of the peso against the dollar has considerably dampened exporters' performance this year.

Mr. Dizon said these institutions have stressed the need for measures centering on the need to relax the country's monetary policies to effectively bring about a competitve and realistic foreign exchange rate.

He admitted that some exporters have already reached a critical level and that it was now a matter of urgency for Government to formulate policies based on the proposals made by economic experts and the export sector.

Exporters have strongly supported economic experts' proposals for the Central Bank (CB) to allow the peso to seek its own realistic level.

For Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. and most bank presidents, the current foreign exchange level is "realistic" and market oriented because there is no strong demand for the dollar from business, on the one hand, and the historical large inflow of dollar remittances during the Christmas season.

Exporters believe the ideal rate would be P28.50 [Philippine pesos]:$1 since this would be enough to absorb their production cost, which they pegged at an average of P27:$1 for this year as well as provide them with a modest profit margin.

Mr Dizon said some exporters have tried to cope with the unfavorable foreign exchange rate by tapping the foreign currency deposit units [FCDU] of banks, which provide dollar-denominated loans at the rate of 7.5%-8%.

Ironically, exporters who have been hardest hit by the uncompetitive peso-dollar exchange rate are the indigenous exporters, those who do not need the FCDU.

Clara Lapuz, chairman of the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Foundation, Inc., said they have been hard put in securing orders from their clients overseas because of the continuing peso appreciation.

"Our clients do not understand that we have to increase our export prices to cope with our unfavorable foreign exchange rate," Ms. Lapuz said.

"We end up losing our clients to such countries like Thailand, which offers the same products at lower prices," she said.

Thailand

Miltary Reportedly Restricts UN Cambodian Flights

BK0112062292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0431 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 1 (AFP)—Thailand's military is restricting United Nations peacekeeping supply flights for Cambodia into Bangkok, requiring three days notice for planes to enter Thai airspace, a source close to the U.N. said Tuesday.

The regulations have effectively grounded one U.N. plane already in Bangkok and another scheduled from Phnom Penh, said the source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The (Thai) military seem to be flexing their muscles," he said. "It's a pretty bad situation."

The requirement was imposed just after U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi told Thai officials last week that a ban on log exports from Cambodia designed to bring pressure on the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction could not be extended past December 31.

Thailand, whose businessmen and military are heavily engaged in trade with the Khmer Rouge, wanted the extension to allow logs already contracted for to be moved across the border.

The curb on flights "doesn't augur well and it doesn't say much for relations between UNTAC and the Thai government," the source said.

(In Bangkok, U.N. officials said UNTAC flights had effectively been suspended. The officials confirmed that one U.N. flight had been grounded in the Thai capital and that UNTAC personnel had been stranded. No further details were immediately available, the officials said.

(A Thai military official confirmed that U.N. flights had to get three days' clearance. He said it was not a new rule although it was being newly enforced.

("Three days is standard practice, there has always been a three-day rule although maybe it was not enforced in the past," said Wing Commander Saran Salachua at the Thai Air Force operations centre. "We agreed with the U.N. last week that for safety and national security reasons they would start informing us three days in advance," he said.

(Saran said that in case of emergency, in particular medical emergencies, special flight clearance could be obtained in half an hour).

The enforcement of the restrictions also came as the U.N. Security Council endorsed an oil embargo against the Khmer Rouge.

The oil embargo, approved Monday, aims to prod the intransigent Khmer Rouge back into the Cambodian peace process.

Clarification on Sanctions Against KR Issued

BK0112092192 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Speaking to newsmen about United Nations sanctions against the Khmer Rouge [KR], Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said it is not true that confirmation by the UN Security Council showed that suggestions made by Thailand had not been taken into consideration. Surin said there had been coordination between the Thai permanent envoy and the United Nations over the wording of the resolution. Otherwise, the resolution would have been much stronger. He said the wording of the resolution was carefully studied so that Thailand's interests would be best protected and so that it is possible for Thailand to follow. Thailand stressed its sincerity in all actions that were taken.

Asked which aspects Thailand is most concerned with regarding the sanctions, the deputy foreign minister said Thailand is concerned about checkpoints and patrolling inside the Thai border. This will have to be carried out with great care, otherwise conflicts could arise. Thailand upholds the Paris agreement and wants all measures to be taken inside Cambodia. Armed units must be stationed inside Cambodia. Any intervention must be based on the consideration that the people will not be affected. He concluded that all this will take time, not to be achieved immediately.

Editorial Views Problems of Complying

BK0112110192 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 1 Dec 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Sanction the Khmer Rouge"]

[Text] The United Nations Security Council has reportedly adopted a resolution to impose economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge to force the latter to comply with the United Nations decision and the peace agreement signed earlier in Paris on the UN-supervised general election scheduled to take place early next year. Unlike other Cambodian factions, the Khmer Rouge have refused to disarm unless millions of Vietnamese refugees who have been settled all over Cambodia are pushed out of the country.

Generally speaking, economic sanctions mean the cessation of assistance and trade with the Khmer Rouge. The United Nations assumes that all countries who want to see peace in Cambodia will be cooperative in this regard. However, it is still questionable if Thailand will be able to comply with such a resolution because of a considably large profit from cross-border trade in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas along its long border with Cambodia.

In principle, Thailand is obliged to respect the UN resolution because it also wants to see durable peace in Cambodia. At the same time, it must consider the extent of the economic sanctions. The Thai Government can probably totally suspend its assistance in all areas for the Khmer Rouge. However, it will be extremely difficult to completely suspend the long-existing cross-border contacts between Thai and Cambodian peoples. Moreover, the Thais have no way of identifying if the Cambodians they have been associating with in Battambang, Siem Reap, or anywhere else in Cambodia are Khmer Rouge or not.

More importantly, the Thai Government, in particular the Foreign Ministry, must thoroughly study the sanctions and find appropriate ways for Thailand to comply with the restrictions to prevent the loss of billions of baht Thai businessmen have invested in Cambodia and, at the same time, defend national prestige and territorial integrity.

Prasong Wants Fair Treatment for Thai Businessmen

BK3011151392 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, foreign minister, reaffirmed that Thailand is ready to comply with any resolution adopted by the UN Security Council in dealing with the Khmer Rouge. However, if such a resolution runs counter to our national sovereignty and law, we will have to reconsider. Fair consideration should be reserved for Thai businessmen regarding the ban on border trade.

Speaking to reporters during an interview at the Land Transport Department on Saturday, the foreign minister said he had informed UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] chief Yasushi Akashi that Thai businessmen who are doing business in Cambodia signed contracts before the Supreme National Council [SNC] adopted the resolution on the prohibition of timber exports after 31 December. The enforcement of the resolution should be postponed until the Thai businessmen have solved their problems. The UNTAC chief has agreed to take this suggestion into consideration. To be fair to all parties, the UN Charter also stipulates that a UN resolution on any issue must be fair to all nearby countries and be discussed with other countries concerned. The foreign minister said he believed that UNTAC would bring this matter to the United Nation's attention.

Touching on the criticism that the Thai Government has failed to demonstrate a clear attitude on its willingness to comply with the UN resolution on Cambodia, the foreign minister said as a matter fact up to this moment, there has been no UN resolution on the Khmer Rouge. We are talking about the resolution passed by the SNC. We are ready to comply with the UN resolution.

The foreign minister refused to comment on the accusation that the enforcement of the SNC log export ban, to become effective on 31 December, is selective because it does not cover the export of processed wood and Japan is doing business in processed wood in Cambodia. He reiterated that Thailand will wait for the UN resolution.

Commentary Discusses Khmer Rouge Impasse

BK2711041192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Nov 92 p 4

[Commentary by Suphaphon Kanwirayothin in Hanoi]

[Text] The hitch in UNTAC's [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] attempts to restore genuine peace in Cambodia is causing deep concern in Vietnam.

With a unique insight into the reality of Cambodia after its decade-long stay in that country, Vietnam knows just what it can do under the present circumstances—nothing.

Hanoi is gravely concerned as it watches the disarmament phase of the Cambodian peace accords flounder, Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co told the Bangkok Post.

The Democratic Kampuchea [DK], as the Khmer Rouge call themselves, have refused to disarm, thereby jeopardising steps towards general elections laid out in the peace agreements signed in Paris in October last year.

"One cannot exclude the possibility of the failure of the Paris agreements because of one party's refusal to comply.... This is a very dangerous situation," said the deputy foreign minister, who once served as Vietnamese ambassador to Thailand.

Vietnam's interests now, he emphasised, lie in the full implementation of the peace pacts, as the country needs a peaceful regional environment for its own economic development and for better cooperation with ASEAN.

"We wish that the implementation of the peace accords be finally fulfilled," he said.

UNTAC has set up nine checkpoints along Cambodia's border with Vietnam, with a liaison office in Hanoi. Vietnam is said to be "very reasonable and try so hard to cooperate" with UNTAC.

Regarding the proposed sanctions against the DK, another Vietnamese expert on the Cambodian issue said such measures would be fruitless. They are irrelevant to the delicate reality of Cambodia which most Westerners fail to grasp, he said.

"UNTAC is using a pair of European eyeglasses to look at Cambodia. It is impossible to sanction the Khmer Rouge. Even Vietnamese volunteer forces could not defeat the Khmer Rouge after a decade of presence, and by what means can UNTAC punish them (for not complying with the peace plans)?" said Nguyen Ba Ngac.

Mr Ngac spent five years in Cambodia from 1987 to 1991 as chief correspondent of the official Vietnam News Agency.

During the peak of the conflict, the number of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia swelled to 200,000, while UNTAC now has a contingent of 20,000 personnel, he noted.

"The Khmer Rouge got 12 years of training in the real grounds with Vietnamese forces which are reputed as the world's best guerrilla fighters. Still they could not defeat the Khmer Rouge which continue to exist and develop. I don't think you can compare UNTAC soldiers to Vietnamese soldiers," he said.

Westerners "always produce low estimate" of the Khmer Rouge's strength, which is in fact impossible to determine.

"But the strength of the Khmer Rouge rests in its ability to infiltrate and win grassroots support through the money and rice it handed out. Khmer people are Buddhists and Buddhists are taught to be grateful to providers. This is something very difficult for Westerners to understand," said Mr Ngac.

Thailand and Vietnam, he said, have a better understanding of Cambodia, and in particular the Khmer Rouge, than other nations involved in the peace plans.

A crucial point derived from that understanding is that sanctions are not the way out of the current impasse.

Mr Ngac believes that the approach is for the Khmers to talk among themselves, without interference by other players.

Diplomats in Hanoi said Vietnam has its own problems including the relationship with China and does not see Cambodia as a high priority security issue right now.

That thinking could change after a UN-supervised election in Cambodia. Vietnam will then face a major problem: How the new Cambodian government will treat the land and sea border agreements signed between Vietnam and the regime it installed in Phnom Penh after ousting the Khmer Rouge.

"That's our biggest problem," said Ly Quang Bich of the Foreign Ministry's Southeast Asian Department.

Vietnam signed an agreement on territorial waters in 1982 and another one on land border in 1987 with the then People's Republic of Kampuchea which has now become the State of Cambodia.

Recently, other Cambodian parties have joined the chorus of the DK's allegations that Vietnam maintains a significant presence in Cambodia.

According to the Vietnamese government's statistics, there are 130,000 Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia. Vietnamese government officials in Hanoi said this number is much smaller than during the reign of Prince Sihanouk before he was toppled by the US-backed Lon Nol coup d'etat.

"Illegal trading along the Vietnam-Cambodian borders has also ceased, and Vietnam is trying its best not to let the cross-border movements of the people create difficulties for UNTAC's activities," said Deputy Foreign Minister Co.

Paper Views Trends in Post-Kaysone Laos

BK3011114192 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 30 Nov 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Which Direction Is Laos Taking?"]

[Text] The state funeral for the late Lao president, Kaysone Phomvihan, ended with pomp and circumstance on Saturday. It was attended by dignitaries from many countries, including Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon and Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon from Thailand. What has not ended is the speculation about which direction Laos will take under the new leadership.

The Lao National Assembly and Communist Party Central Committee held a special session to elect new leaders to fill the posts of president and party general secretary held by Kaysone Phomvihan. Chairman of the Lao National Assembly Nouhak Phoumsavan, 78, was elected president, while Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, 68, was elected party general secretary. A Western assessment of Laos was made immediately after that.

It is believed the Lao communist party leaders still want to hold on to political power instead of allowing the country to undergo changes toward capitalism. Anyway, for the Thai people, it would be a mistake to read as that.

The fact that Nouhak is pro-Vietnam does not mean Laos would be subjected to gradual economic changes to catch up with world trends.

It is even possible that Laos might, quicker than others think, speed up the process of economic adjustments to solve national poverty by means of aid from Thailand, Australia, and the European Common Market. Laos realizes that China and Vietnam are themselves busy with economic reforms. It is quite certain that Laos would not adhere to the old school of communism or what used to be prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union, since that would leave it far behind others as the only backward socialist country.

What is fact is that Nouhak was born in Mukdahan Province and has many relatives in Thailand. General Khamtai Siphandon, meanwhile, seems to be willing to relinquish premiership to Phoun Sipaseut, Lao foreign minister and former long-time ambassador of Laos to Thailand. He is also a close friend of Thailand and highly credible in the eyes of Western countries. Evidently, he would want to bring Laos closer to the West should he become prime minister.

The only source of suspicion for the Lao communist party would be America because America can back any faction in a takeover against the Lao communist party. This would remain the same, whereas economic adjustments are expected to gradually pick up pace.

Foreign Minister To Visit Laos Early 1993

BK3011144592 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Speaking to reporters on Saturday after returning from the funeral service for late Lao President Kaysone Phomvihan, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri said he will pay an official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic early next year because Lao officials will probably be busy with the general election on 20 December. He quoted Phoun Sipaseut, Lao deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as telling him that Kaysone's illness was the only reason for the repeated postponement of his official visit to Laos in the past and Laos wanted to keep the president's illness a secret.

Commenting on the presidency of Nouhak Phoumsavan, the foreign minister said that the Thai-Lao relations will remain unchanged despite of his known intimate association with Vietnam. Phoun Sipaseut has also reaffirmed that there will no change in Laos' policy. Nouhak himself has reaffirmed on several occasions and during the funeral that he will continue the policies of Kaysone, in particular in foreign relations. The foreign minister said he believed that relations between the two countries will be further improved.

The foreign minister continued: Although he had not yet paid any official visit to Laos, he has known and is familiar with many Lao leaders. Infrastructure, funds, and technology are hampering Laos's national development. In this regard, Thailand is ready to cooperate with Laos in all areas.

The Lao side considers as the greatest honor and attaches the highest importance to the participation of Crown Prince Wachiralongkon and Crown Princes Maha Chakkri Sirinthon in the funeral for the late Lao president.

UNHCR Backs Plan for Burmese Students Center

BK3011124292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 30 (AFP)—The head of the United Nations refugee office here Monday backed a Thai plan to put Burmese students in a border holding camp, and said the agency would transfer its assistance payments to the center as of January.

Monday was the deadline for the Burmese to report to the camp in western Ratchaburi Province.

But only a handful of the 516 approved students have agreed to live there. The Burmese have said they fear for their safety if they move into the border camp.

Interior Ministry officials said only eight had registered as of Monday with the authorities. They warned that the students who did not enter the camp, widely referred to as the "Safe Area," would face arrest.

Daniel Conway, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative in Thailand, said in a statement that the agency shares the concern for the safety and security of the students.

But he added: "We believe that, on balance, they will be more secure in the Safe Area than living illegally in Bangkok, subject to arrest and deportation."

"UNHCR is opposed, in all circumstances, to the deportation of Burmese of concern to UNHCR," he said, referring to students who are under consideration for refugee status.

"The facilities provided by the Thai authorities in the Safe Area have been seen by UNHCR and foreign embassy staff based in Bangkok, and they are adequate," Conway said.

"As of January 1993, UNHCR is transferring to the Safe Area the assistance payments for students who signed up to go to the Safe Area," he said. "We have already made the support payments to all Burmese of concern to UNHCR for December, since we pay allowances in advance."

The U.N. agency gives Burmese considered as "persons of concern" 2,500 baht (100 dollars) a month to live on.

"While other solutions might be preferable, the Safe Area concept cannot justly be criticized by UNHCR as long as the students are provided with adequate security, protection, shelter, food, medical care and access to education and training...," Conway said.

Access to the camp must be available to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and UNHCR, Conway added.

Conway said while UNHCR supports "the Safe Area as the best available solution at the moment," it would continue to work with Thai Government on other options for the Burmese and "continue to evaluate its position of the Safe Area in light of experience and UNHCR's protection mandate."

Thousands of students and other pro-democracy activists fled across the Thai-Burmese border four years ago after Rangoon's military brutally seized power to crush nationwide demonstrations and strikes in support of the establishment of Western style democracy.

Border Dispute To Be Resolved at 'Local Level'

BK0112033392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] The dispute over the Burmese army's occupation of Hill 491 in Chumphon Province's Tha Sae District will be solved at the local level and not the national level, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said last night.

After a working dinner with Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw at the Dusit Thani Hotel last night, Sqd Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong said he believes the issue will be solved by the local authorities.

He said he was satisfied with the Burmese Foreign Minister's assurance that Burma would cooperate with Thailand to solve any existing problems.

The Thai Foreign Minister and his Burmese counterpart discussed, among other things, the Burmese army's reported occupation of Hill 491, Sqd Ldr Prasong said.

He said no solution had yet been reached but he regarded his meeting with U Ohn Gyaw as the beginning of further negotiations.

Sqd Ldr Prasong said he believed the problem would be solved at the Regional Border Committee level, and not at the national level.

"The problem over Hill 491 will not escalate like the dispute (with Laos) over Rom Klao village," he said.

Sqd Ldr Prasong said he would not blame previous administrations for leaving the problem unresolved.

"When we are the Government we have to try to solve it," he said.

The Burmese foreign minister described his meeting with Sqd Ldr Prasong as the "first with a brother."

He said Burma is willing to cooperate with Thailand on everything and did not regard the existing problem as a conflict between the two countries.

"We will cooperate with each other in a brotherly way," U Ohn Gyaw said.

In a related development, Army Secretary Maj-Gen Chaturit Promsakha na Sakhon Nakhon said yesterday the occupation of Hill 491 by Burmese soldiers would be settled politically rather than by the use of force.

The Army secretary declined to confirm or deny if the Fourth Army Region has planned any action to push back the intruding Burmese soldiers from the border hill in Tha Sae District.

"We'd prefer a 'political solution rather than a military one' and it remains to be seen what measure the Foreign Ministry will take. And that would depend on the Government," the Army secretary said.

However, the Army is always ready to defend every centimetre of the country, he said.

Supreme Command Spokesman Lt-Gen Anuson Kritsanaserani said no additional Burmese troops have reinforced Hill 491 since two infantry companies seized it last year.

Lt-Gen Anuson said Burmese reinforcements are located somewhere "behind the hill."

However, the two Burmese companies up there show no sign of withdrawing, despite "diplomatic and military" negotiations between both sides, the Supreme Command spokesman said.

Troops Alerted To Halt Burmese Trespassing

BK2711025392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Nov 92 p A2

[Text] Thai forces along the border have been put on alert to prevent Burmese troops crossing into Thailand and harassing local villagers during operations against Karen guerrillas, Lt Gen Anuson Kritsanaserani said yesterday.

Gen Anuson, the Supreme Commander's spokesman, said the situation along the Thai-Burmese border has become tense as Rangoon forces step up their military campaign against the guerrillas.

He said there had been numerous incursions by Burmese troops in pursuit of the Karens, and Thai villagers were being endangered by stray artillery shells and small arms fire.

If the Burmese launched heavy ground and air attacks against the Kawmura or Wangkaew camps, opposite Tak's Mae Sot district, or Manerplaw, near Mae Hong Son's Muang district—as expected—many Thai villagers would have to be evacuated to safety, he said.

All necessary measures were being taken to safeguard local Thais.

Anuson said Burmese troops had seized three Karen bases recently—Chota camp, on the other side of Mae Hong Son's Mae Sariang district, and two camps at Famusong.

He said a border dispute with Burma over Hill 491, in Chumphon's Tha Sae district, remains unresolved and would be the subject of further talks in Rangoon on Nov 30.

The spokesman added that more talks were needed to solve a dispute between Thailand and Burma over the strategic hill on their not demarcated frontier in Chumphon province.

No fence marks the border at the remote Hill 491, he said.

Army Deputy Secretary-General Col Banchon Chawansip said yesterday the problem is compounded by the fact that Burmese forces use old British maps while Thai troops have their own maps.

The two officers said the watershed lying along a string of hills marked the border between the two countries.

Thai and Burmese officials failed to reach agreement on the hill at a meeting of the Thai-Burmese Border Committee in Chiang Mai last week. The two sides also failed to agree on sending technical teams to survey the area.

The committee will again tackle the problem at another round of talks in Rangoon at the end of the month Anuson said.

Burmese troops have been occupying the hill since they captured it during an offensive against Karen ethnic minority guerrillas in February. According to reports, they have dug in and reinforced their positions there.

The Thai officers said tbe problem must be solved through negotiations and not through the use of force and that both sides should withdraw from the hill while they discussed the problem.

Hill 491 is not the only part of the Thai-Burmese border whose ownership is unclear as almost the whole of the border is not demarcated.

General: Military Not Allowed To Express Views

BK2811023192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] Military leaders have to keep silent because they have been treated as having no freedom and right to express their opinions, a military senator said yesterday.

"These days my ears are filled by the word democracy. One in every 100 words people say would be about it.

"Soldiers are citizens in a democracy, just like others. But today they have no right and limited freedom to think and speak," said Gen Sit Chirarot.

Apparently referring to Deputy Finance Minister Trairong Suwannakhiri's statement, Gen Sit said the military would draw criticism for whatever they say as if they have no rights.

"When the military say something, a person will criticise them for opening their mouth and neglecting their own duty," he said.

Mr Trairong recently countered Territorial Defence Department chief Gen Yutthaphan Makkaramani's criticism of politicians saying that he should have been careful with his mouth and concerned with his own duty.

The former chairman of the assets panel appointed by the National Peacekeeping Council said the military has now done nothing to stir up trouble and has been dutiful.

He said he did not want to comment on the House passage of the bill to abolish the Internal Peacekeeping Director Act because he did not want to be criticised.

Gen Sit said he shared the Opposition's view that the law should be retained to provide the Government and the Prime Minister with a tool to quell riots.

But this is up to the politicians to decide, he added.

He said the military acted according to the law in suppressing pro-democracy protests in May, otherwise there would have been more damage than those done to the buildings of the Revenue and Public Relations departments.

Politicians may believe this should be the duty of the police but he doubted if they are capable of quelling riots in which hundreds of thousands of people are involved.

Gen Sit noted that the Government had to muster enough votes with difficulty to push through the bill on Thursday.

The abolition of the law will pose problems for the future governments, he said.

Gen Sit said he expected a free vote in the Senate when the bill is submitted to it for deliberation since senators have freedom of expression.

Gen Sit said the military's feeling had been hurt since the May incident but they are disciplined and listen to their superiors' order.

He said Gen Suchinda Khraprayun displayed spirit in resigning as premier following the incident but things had not ended as expected.

Gen Sit said he disagreed with the Opposition's move to propose a no-confidence debate against the Chuan Likphai Government.

It is unfair to criticise the Government of having done nothing because it is swamped by immediate problems which need time to be solved, he said adding that he sympathised with the Government.

Ex-Supreme Commander Retains Support in Military

BK0112025992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 92 p A8

[Article by Watsana Nanuam: "Kaset Shows Staying Power After Early Suchinda Exit"]

[Text] On Nov 20 two years ago, during an anniversary party for the Royal Thai Navy, the famous Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy's Class-5 powerbrokers, led by then-Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and then-Air Force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, and the host, then naval chief Admiral Chiraphat Kritsanachan, asked hot young entertainer Billy Okan to sing his popular song La Ok (I'd Better Resign).

The request was a veiled hint to then democratically-elected prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan, who was attending the party. Three months later, Chatchai was toppled by these military leaders in a bloodless coup.

The annual party for 1992 was held a week or so ago at the Old Palace Navy Headquarters, and it was an occasion of some pomp and ceremony. And well it might, for not only was the Royal Navy celebrating its 86th anniversary, there was also considerable smugness and self-satisfaction among the glittering brass present for having sealed the arm's first Bt [baht]7-billion helicopter carrier. Recently approved by the government, the purchase was said to be an apparent "reward" for the behaviour of the Navy towards pro-democracy demonstrators during the May upheaval.

The military heavyweights at Navy Headquarters were not expecting civilian Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, though. He was attending a garden party at Government House in honour of visiting Japanese Prince Akishino and his wife Princess Kiko. Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasathian turned up instead.

But the most notable of the top brass, who lent the occasion an air of suspense, were former premier Gen Suchinda and former Supreme Commander Kaset.

Suchinda, in a navy blue suit, arrived at the function with an engaging, if not affected, smile. Despite a warm reception from the host, Navy chief Adm Wichet Karunyawanit, a Class 5 chum, and the reassurances of close friends that the tragedy of May was behind him, Suchinda's occasional melancholic stares and somber demeanor were telling enough.

The reception for Deputy Prime Minister Boonchu was no different than that enjoyed by most of the military leaders. All the white-uniformed officers with the exception of Suchinda, who had his backed turned, stood to attention.

Shortly after he sighted the civilian deputy premier, Suchinda left the anniversary party, departing alone. Some people explained that he was going off to a birthday party for former Army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, who is now deputy permanent secretary for defence.

The subsequent arrival of ACM Kaset was an instantly noticeable event because of the sizable force of uniformed security men and aides-de-camp accompanying him. The former supreme commander became a hot topic of conversation at the party over whether he still retained his powerful influence in the military.

A notable absentee was Army chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit. Many people were heard to wonder sotto voce whether the reason he gave for missing the party—that he was attending another party at Government House—was just an excuse. Gen Sanya Sripen, the deputy Army chief, attended the Navy's celebration on behalf of his boss.

Earlier, the Army chief had told a military audience at the Lop Buri infantry and cavalry units that he was saddened by the fact that his rise to the Armed Forces' most powerful post was a consequence of the downfall of his frinends.

As the party began to get into swing, Navy host Adm Wichet got up to join the welcoming of Supreme Commander ACM Woranat Aphichat, leaving Bunchu, the senior civilian government official, sitting in uncomfortable silence next to another rather reserved member of the Cabinet, Defence Minister Gen Wichit Sukmak, who gave laconic answers when questioned. Like the deputy premier, Deputy Defence Minister Maj Gen Sombat Rotphothong was also left looking like a wallflower. Bunchu and Sombat had to lean over across the U-shaped table to talk to each other and break the silence surrounding them.

On his way to take his place at the official table, Woranat greeted many officers. The only exception was Kaset, who was looking the other way. When he sighted his successor as supreme commander finally ensconced in his seat, Kaset did not bother to get up and greet the man who is now his boss. His nonchalance made Adm Prida Kannasut, the deputy supreme commander, who was seated next to him, feel awkward as he attempted to bring the presence of Kaset to the attention of Woranat.

The uneasy silence was broken when Kaset ("Big Teh") greeted his great friend, the Air Force chief ACM Gun Phimanthip. On sighting Kaset, Gun rushed over to give his friend a warm embrace. This was enough to bring Big Teh to life again.

Even if the enthusiasm of the greeting had been stage-managed, it was still impressive. Gun asked his neighbour to exchange seats so that he could sit next to his friend, Kaset. Their lively and animated conversation resembled that of a couple of long-lost friends who had been reunited after years apart. It is well-known, of course, that the two had met only a couple of days earlier at a get-together for the Air Force chiefs of staff.

The roles assigned for all attending Cabinet members with the exception of Wichit—a military man—almost seemed as though they were prearranged. They would be ignored. Bunchu had little opportunity to do anything other than to contemplate the food before him. Any conversation with Wichit was limited to the exchange of a few words. And in order to converse with elected Cabinet colleague Maj Gen Sombat, the deputy premier had to lean uncomfortably over the table.

The end of the party was also an interesting study in the contrasting attitudes of the guests. The military officers appeared reluctant to go, while the civilians—Bunchu and Sombat—nearly jumped for joy at the prospect of departure.

When it came time for him to leave, Kaset, one of the four principle characters blamed for the vicious crackdown on the pro-democracy demonstrators on Ratchadamnoen Avenue in May that left at least 52 dead and hundreds more injured and missing, was given a powerful show of solidarity and warmth by the other assembled military leaders. It left a clear impression in the minds of observers that he still held considerable sway in the corridors of military power.

Kaset complained to senior reporters who covered the event that the press gave him little coverage now that he had been demoted to the post of a Defence Ministry-based Armed Forces inspector general.

"See what you will do when I become Nayok (prime minister)," he retorted. The reporters were dumbfounded. But Big Teh quickly followed that comment with a snappy explanation: "By 'Nayok,' I mean chairman of an association.

Witnesses to Kaset's send-off could not help but wonder whether a prime minister or a supreme commander would get better treatment.

Labor Demands, 'Lukewarm Response' Viewed

BK0112034992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Dec 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Rumbling About a General Strike Is Counterproductive"]

[Text] Rumbling labour leaders are once again talking about a possible general strike if their demands for higher wages and greater freedom in their union activities continue to receive just a lukewarm response from the government. Some of them plan to call a mass rally at Sanam Luang on Dec 13 to press for the Chuan administration's support for their demands.

One of the demands calls for the immediate abolition of the NPKC's [National Peacekeeping Council] Decree No 54 which requires a labour union to seek the approval of labour authorities for every outside adviser it wants to appoint. This regulation enables the authorities to screen out labour activists whom they think are "too radical." The Chuan Cabinet should have no problem with this demand. If a political party can appoint anyone as its adviser, a labour union should have the same freedom as well.

Another demand calls for the restoration in all state enterprises of the right of the employees to form labour unions. The right was abolished by the coup makers of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC). They considered this one of their most noteworthy "accomplishments" after knocking down the Chatchai administration on Feb 23, 1991.

The Chuan Cabinet seems reluctant to restore the right for fear that a revival of state enterprise unions could lead to political chaos when leaders of these unions resort to threatening the shutdown of public utilities and services in their state enterprises in pressing the government for their demands. This fear is not entirely unjustifiable. In the past, some unscrupulous leaders of state enterprise unions did abuse their collective bargaining power by threatening to go on strike whenever the government rejected their demands—even though strictly speaking they were not allowed to make such a threat, much less organize a work stoppage.

All parties in this issue will have to sit down together and work out new measures to plug old loopholes before state enterprise unions are revived. But what organizational form the revived state enterprise unions will take has little to do with the welfare of workers in the private sector, whose income and benefits are much lower than those of their more fortunate brethren in the state enterprises.

Thus, union leaders in the private sector are putting more emphasis on their demands for the right to a 90-day maternity leave with full pay and, more importantly, an increase in the minimum wage (in Bangkok and nearby provinces) from Bt [baht] 115 a day to Btl45. At present, a working mother in a government agency is legally entitled to a 60-day maternity leave with full pay. The leave is usually longer if she works in a private company, state enterprise or international organization. But if she is a wage labourer, she receives no such benefit. And few employers would want to hire pregnant women anyway. Thus, the demand for a 90-day maternity leave with full pay appears more frivolous than reasonable.

The bone of contention will therefore be on the demand to raise the minimum daily wage to Bt145, an increase of 23.8 per cent from its present rate. This is not a new demand. Several labour leaders wanted the rate to increase from Bt1OO to Bt145 during their negotiations with the authorities and the employer association last year and they settled for a 15-per cent increase, to Bt115 effective as of April 1, 1992.

Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut appeared quite lukewarm to this demand; his reason was that the latest wage increase was just eight months ago, thus it would be too early to start talking about another round of wage increases for next year. This prompted the current rumbling of labour leaders —in desperation more than anything else—about a possible general strike.

The labour leaders should learn not to talk tough and make noise just to attract government attention. Threatening a general strike will only alienate potential allies who can otherwise help argue the case for a sizable wage increase and significant improvements in labour welfare benefits.

Instead, the labour leaders should seek help from economists and labour experts in studying the prevailing economic conditions and taking into consideration inflation, economic growth, and the cost of living, to name just a few, when they put forth their demands. They need not resort to threatening a general strike, but they must be reasonable and realistic in order to be taken more seriously.

Vietnam

Reportage on Visit of PRC Premier Li Peng

Economic Cooperation Pacts Viewed

BK3011131292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi, Nov 30 (AFP)—China will provide Vietnam with some 20 million dollars in credit under one of four cooperation pacts to be signed during Chinese Premier Li Peng's visit to Hanoi, informed sources said Monday.

The accords, to be signed Wednesday, cover investment promotion and protection, scientific and technical cooperation, and cultural exchanges, Vietnamese and Chinese officials said.

The fourth pact, on the promotion of economic cooperation, includes a long-term soft loan to Vietnam expected to be worth 20 million dollars, informed Vietnamese sources said. Chinese officials did not confirm the amount.

Li, making the first visit to Vietnam by a Chinese premier in 21 years, met for more than two hours after his arrival Monday with Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet.

Despite an upsurge in trade between China and Vietnam since the communist neighbors normalized diplomatic relations one year ago, Beijing is worried by the growing economic clout wielded by Taiwan as Vietnam's largest foreign investor.

Beijing's official China Daily newspaper reported Sunday that China's drive to promote trade with Vietnam—exemplified by a trade fair opening here Tuesday—was being held in part to counter Taiwan's economic influence.

Li is to pay a visit Wednesday to the fair, organized by the semi-official China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

A major economic issue on the table during the Sino-Vietnamese talks is smuggling, with Vietnam complaining that its domestic industry is being swamped by a flood of untaxed Chinese goods.

Specifically, the Vietnamese were expected to press China to reopen the cross-border roads and newly repaired rail-line, damaged in the two countries' 1979 war, so goods can be controlled and taxed by central Customs authorities.

Though the neighbors agreed to reopen the crossings in April, age-old disagreements over the exact demarcation of the border have prevented the agreements from being implemented.

Meanwhile, goods pour in virtually unchecked under piecemeal, semi-official arrangements between local authorities in neighboring border provinces.

Li was flanked during the talks by China's minister for external relations and trade, Li Lanqing, while the Vietnamese side included most of the country's top economic policymakers.

While her husband was at the negotiating table, Li's wife Chu Lin did her part for Vietnam's economy by shopping in downtown Hanoi.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Li Peng

BK3011140592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Report by station correspondent Truong Cong Hoa on 30 November ceremony in Hanoi to welcome Chinese Premier Li Peng on his official visit—recorded]

[Summary] "Dear friends: Accepting the invitation of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, today, Comrade Li Peng, premier of the PRC State Council, arrived in Hanoi on his official friendship to our country.

"Accompanying Premier Li Peng were his wife; Comrade Li Lanqing, minister of foreign economic relations and trade; He Chunlin, deputy secretary general of the State Council; Qi Huaiyuan, director of the Foreign Affairs Office under the State Council; Xu Dunxin, vice foreign affairs minister and his wife; Zhou Ping, deputy minister in charge of the State Commission for Science and Technology; Liu Deyou, deputy minister of culture; (Trinh Hong Nghiep), president of the Association for the Promotion of International Trade With China; (Khuong Van Bao), director of the Premier Office of the State Council; and Zhang Dewei, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam and his wife."

At the Presidential Place and along maihe delegation passed, the two flags of Vietnam and China have been raised together with a banner "Welcome PRC Premier Li Peng on His Official Friendship Visit to Vietnam" written in Vietnamese and Chinese.

"The official reception is solemnly held at the Presidential Palace. Earlier, Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry and his wife went to Noi Bai International Airport to escort Premier Li Peng and his wife. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Hanoi People's Committee Chairman Le At Hoi, many ministers and deputy ministers, and representatives of the diplomatic corps and international organizations in Hanoi were at the official ceremony to welcome Premier Li Peng.

"At 1230 sharp, the motorcade escorting Premier Li Peng and his entourage arrived at the Presidential Palace. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife warmly received Premier Li Peng, his wife, and the Chinese guests. Then Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet invited Premier Li Peng to the honorary stand before the military band played the Chinese and Vietnamese national anthems. Major Ngo Chi Danh, commander of the Guard of Honor of the Vietnamese People's Army reported to and invited Premier Li Peng to review the honor guards.

"After reviewing the honor guards of the Vietnamese People's Army, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet escorted Premier Li Peng to meet Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong; ministers, deputy ministers, and high-randing officials of the Vietnamese Government; and diplomatic corps and international organizations representatives in Hanoi.

"Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Premier Li Peng spent time to talk to those people before Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife invited the Premier and his wife to enter the Presidential Palace, where they will stay during their official friendship visit to our country."

Vo Van Kiet, Li Peng Hold Talks

BK3011141392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Immediately after Comrade Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, and his wife arrived in Hanoi, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife gave them a warm reception at the Presidential Palace. Premier Li Peng said: Today, I am very delighted to visit Vietnam. This is a return visit for a trip to China one year ago by Comrade Do Muoi and Comrade Vo Van Kiet.

Premier Li Peng conveyed the best regards of Chinese leaders Yang Shangkun, Jiang Zemin, and Wan Li to Comrade Do Muoi and Comrade Le Duc Anh, as well as the Vietnamese people.

On behalf of our government and people, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet welcomed the visit to Vietnam this time by Premier Li Peng and his wife, regarding the event as a new step in the development of bilateral relations.

Earlier, at Noi Bai International Airport, Premier Li Peng delivered a speech which reads in part: In November of last year, comrade Chinese and Vietnamese leaders attended a summit meeting to normalize relations between the two countries, thus promoting Sino-Vietnamese relations to a new stage of development. I am positive that the constant consolidation and strengthening of friendly and cooperative ties between China and Vietnam not only meet the common aspirations and basic interests of the two peoples but also benefit peace, stability, and development in the region.

This afternoon at the Presidential Palace, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held talks with Chinese Premier Li Peng. Attending the talks on the Vietnamese side were Comrade Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Le Van Triet, minister of commerce; Comrade Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry; Comrade Dau Ngoc Xuan, minister and head of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment; Comrade Ho Te, minister of finance; Comrade Le Xuan Chinh, minister and head of the Government Office; Comrade Tran Hoan, minister of culture and information; Comrade Vu Khoan, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Le Qui An, deputy minister of science, technology, and environment; and Comrade Dang Nghiem Hoanh, our country's ambassador to China.

On the Chinese side were Comrade Li Lanqing, minister of foreign economic relations and trade; Comrade He Chunlin, deputy secretary general of the State Council; Comrade Qi Huaiyuan, director of the Foreign Affairs Office under the State Council; Comrade Xu Dunxin, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Zhou Ping, deputy director of the State Commission for Science and Technology; Comrade Liu Deyou, deputy minister of culture; Comrade (Trinh Hong Nghiep), president of the Association for the Promotion of International Trade With China; Comrade (Khuong Van Bao), director of the Office of the Premier of the State Council; and Comrade Zhang Dewei, Chinese ambassador to our country.

VNA Reports on Talks

BK3011160392 Hanoi VNA in English 1532 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 30—Talks were held here this afternoon between Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and premier of the Chinese State Council Li Peng.

Also present on the Chinese side were Li Langqing, minister of foreign economic relations and trade; He Chunlin, deputy secretary general of the National People's Congress; Qi Huaiyuan, head of the Office of the National People's Congress; Xu Dunxin, deputy foreign minister; Zhang Dewei, Chinese ambassador to Vietnam and others.

The Vietnamese side also included Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam; Le Van Triet, minister of commerce; Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry; Ho Te, minister of finance; Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the Vietnam State Committee for

Cooperation and Investment; Tran Hoan, minister of culture and information; Le Xuan Chinh, minister and head of the Office of the Government; Vietnamese Ambassador to China Dang Nghiem Hoan, and others.

In his speech of welcome, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet stressed the importance of this event, the first Vietnam visit by a high-level Chinese leader since Premier Zhou Enlai's visit 21 years ago in March 1971, and a year after the Vietnam-China summit meeting in Beijing in November 1991, which officially resumed the normal relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet welcomed the achievements made by the Chinese people in the process of reforms and open-door policy. He also wished them success in carrying out big tasks laid down by the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of China.

Premier Li Peng stressed that the Chinese state and party leaders were respecting this official friendship visit to Vietnam, and he expressed his belief that the visit would gain fine results, promoting the cooperation and friendship between the two countries to a new stage of development. He welcomed the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the revovation process, and wished the Vietnamese people still greater achievements in the implementation of the resolution of the 7th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Reviewing the relations between the two countries since the Sino- Vietnamese summit in November 1991, the two sides held that the consolidation and strengthening of the neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the five principls of peaceful co-existence conform to the two peoples' benefits and aspirations as well as to the interests of peace, stability and development in the region. The two sides noted the considerable developments in their relations over the past one year, and exchanged measures to scrupulously implement the agreements signed between the two countries. They agreed to sign on this occasion an investment encouragement and protection agreement, a scientific-technical cooperation agreement, a cultural agreement and an economic-technical cooperation agreement.

The two sides held that the two countries still have great potentials, and that they need to be further developed. The two sides agreed to settle the existing problems left behind by history, as well as the newly arising problems through negotiations on the basis of equality and mutual respect aimed at promoting their relations, including those on borders, territories on land, the Tonkin Gulf and East Sea.

The two aides also exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship, frankliness [as received] and mutual respect and understanding.

Vo Van Kiet Hosts Banquet

BK0112023892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] A grand banquet was held at the Presidential Palace on the evening of 30 November by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife in honor of PRC Premier and Mrs. Li Peng on the occasion of their official visit to our country.

Also present on the Chinese side were high-ranking government cadres who are accompanying the premier on the visit, and on the Vietnamese side were other leaders of our government.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Premier Li Peng addressed the banquet. Together with the others, the two ministers and their wives gave a toast to the constant consolidation and development of the relations of neighborly friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and China.

Vo Van Kiet Addresses Banquet

BK3011164992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Nov 92

["Text" of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's speech at a grand reception at the Presidential Palace on the evening of 30 November in honor of PRC Premier Li Peng—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Comrade Premier Li Peng and Mrs. Zhu Lin; distinguished Chinese guests; dear comrades and friends: First of all, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government and people, I would like to warmly welcome Comrade Premier Li Peng and Mrs. Zhu Lin, as well as other distinguished Chinese guests, the envoys of the Chinese people who are paying an official frienship visit to Vietnam.

The comrade premier's Vietnam visit is of special significance because it marks the first visit to Vietnam by a high-ranking Chinese leader in 21 years, following a visit to Vietnam by the late Premier Zhou Enlai and one full year after a historic Sino-Vietnamese summit meeting in Beijing.

Twenty years is a very short time in the history of a nation. However, profound changes have taken place in our country during that time. At the time of Comrade Zhou Enlai's Vietnam visit, our country was immersed in a fierce war and divided into two parts. Vietnam has now been fully liberated and unified. Our country is firmly advancing toward the socialist path chosen by Comrade Ho Chi Minh and our people.

Despite numerous difficulties and challenges, the entire Vietnamese party and people are making every effort to implement the resolution of the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, firmly maintaining stability in all fields and scoring initial yet very important achievements on the economic and cultural fronts.

Thanks to a foreign policy based on independence, sovereignty, and diversification, Vietnam's diplomatic relations have constantly been broadened and have created more favorable conditions for national construction.

In implementing a reform program and an open-door policy, the Chinese people have scored many achievements and have made many changes in national socioeconomic life. Your visit to Vietnam has taken place immediately following the successful conclusion of the 14th congress of the Communist Party of China.

May we avail ourselves of this opportunity to warmly congratulate all of you on this important event. We sincerely hope that the Chinese people will successfully implement the great tasks set forth by the congress.

Vietnam and China are linked by the same mountains and rivers. Through thousands of years of history, people in the two countries have forged close ties of good neighborliness and friendship. In their struggles for national liberation, the two peoples have shared sweetness and happiness together and united and assisted in each country's revolutionary undertaking. With a tradition of loyalty, our people have always remembered the precious support and assistance by the Chinese people and we have specially treasured the Sino-Vietnam friendship.

More than a year ago, leaders of the two parties and countries decided to normalize bilateral relations, opening a new developing step in our neighborly and friendly relations and meeting the profound aspirations of the two peoples and our long-term basic interests as well as the trend of peace and cooperation in the region.

However, we are not complacent about what we have achieved because our potential for cooperation is still great. Problems left over by history and by newly arising issues demand us to work harder through negotiations on the basis of equality and respect for each other's sovereignty and interests. This is so that we can solve them step by step and thereby accelerate the wider and deeper friendship and cooperative ties between the two country, thus contributing to the trend of peace, stability, and cooperation in the region.

Our honest and friendly talks this afternoon manifested our willingness for the building of more efficient cooperation. Your visit to Vietnam as well as the agreements reached surely mark a new landmark in that direction. For our part, we will try our best to contribute to the implementation of the noble duties that we have set forth.

In the atmosphere imbued with the Sino-Vietnamese friendship, I suggest that all comrades and friends toast the success of the SRV official visit of PRC Premier Li Peng; the strengthening and development of the Sino-Vietnam neighborly, friendly relations and cooperation; the good health of General Secretary Jiang Zemin, President Yang Shangkun, and other Chinese party and state leaders; and the good health of Premier Li Peng, his wife, all distinguished guests, comrades, and friends.

Li Peng Addresses Banquet

BK0112135992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Nov 92

["Text" of PRC Premier Li Peng's speech at a banquet held in his honor by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet at the Presidential Palace on 30 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Comrade Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Madame Kiet and dear comrades and friends:

Accepting the invitation of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, my colleagues and I are very happy to pay an official friendship visit to the neighboring country which shares the same mountains and river with China. We thank the Vietnamese Government and people for their solemn reception. This afternoon, Premier Vo Van Kiet and I held successful talks. Now the comrade prime minister holds a great banquet for us. On this occasion, on behalf of my wife and my colleagues, I sincerely thank Comrade Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife, the Vietnamese Government, and people. And I would like to convey best regards and good wishes of the Chinese people to the Vietnamese people.

The Vietnamese and Chinese peoples have a long history of friendly relations. They have extended mutual sympathy and support in the fight for national independence and liberation of each country. Although relations between the two countries have experienced ups and downs and some difficult times, Vietnamese and Chinese leaders at their summit meeting in November 1991 decided to close the past and open the future and to carry out normalization of relations, taking cooperation and friendship between the two countries to a new stage of development.

The Chinese Government and people greatly treasure the traditional friendship of the two peoples and put great importance on developing good-neighborly relations and cooperation between the two countries. Over the past year, the two countries have, step by step, restored and developed their relations and cooperation in many fields such as politics, economics, science and technology, culture, and so forth. We should highly value this and consider it beneficial to the common interests of both peoples. At the same time, it should be pointed out that we can and must do much more, and great efforts are required.

China and Vietnam are both developing countries faced with the task of developing the economy to improve peoples' living conditions. We are both building socialism according to our concrete national conditions, both needing a peaceful and stable international situation. These common points of Vietnam and China are the basis of our cooperation. We are firmly confident that with our common efforts, friendship and cooperation between the two countries will be further developed.

In regard to the existing issues, including territorial and border disputes, we are ready to settle them appropriately through friendly consultations in the spirit of mutual respect and understanding. The border negotiations between the two countries have made a good start. We hope to accelerate the negotiating process to solve the disputes early and in a fair and reasonable manner.

Regarding those issues which cannot be settled immediately, our position is to temporarily leave them aside for more consideration since we have plenty of time to spare. We strongly believe that our common points are bigger than our differences. Therefore, both sides should strive not to let some differences affect relations between the two countries.

The world now is in a time of great upheaval, the international situation is changing unceasingly, and economic competition has become fiercer and fiercer. In our Asia, the situation is relatively stable; the economy remains on the upward trend. The international and regional situation is both a big challenge and a rare opportunity for us.

China, as a developing country, always pursues a foreign policy of peace, independence, and sovereignty on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence, is ready to develop cooperative and friendly relations with all countries, especially its neighbors. The Chinese Government has many times solemnly declared that China will never become a hegemonistic and expansionist power, at the same time it protests hegemonism and big power politics in all forms. Our stance is that all differences and disputes among countries should be solved peacefully in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international laws through consultations without resort to force or the threat of force.

China is a steadfast force to defend world peace. Its limited national defense force has a purely self-defense character. We definitely do not threaten any country nor are we filling any vacuum. All countries in Southeast Asia are friendly neighbors of China. China is ready to make every effort, together with other countries, to contribute to safeguarding peace and promoting economic development in the region.

Dear comrades and friends:

Under the guidance of Comrade Deng Xiaoping's theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, the Chinese people are concentrating on economic construction. A great, historic change is under way in the territory of China. The recently convened 14th CPC [Communist Party of China] national congress summed up the experience of the past 14 years and adopted the strategic decision of deepening reform, opening wider, and accelerating economic development. People of all nationalities in China are rallying around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Jiang Zemin at its core and are making concerted efforts to build socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and the Vietnamese Government, the Vietnamese people are vigorously implementing the resolution of the seventh CPV congress. They have achieved remarkable progress in stabilizing the political situation, implementing the policy of renewal and door-opening, accelerating economic development, improving people's living standards, and so forth. We heartily rejoice at your achievements and wish from the bottom of our hearts that the Vietnamese people score still greater achievements in your socialist construction as well as your renovation and door-opening undertaking.

Both Chinese and Vietnamese are hardworking and intelligent people. Both nations are carrying out socialist construction and each has many experiences which the other can draw on. We believe, however, that each nation has its own distinct actual conditions which should base on its practical situation while planning its policy. I am convinced that through the common efforts of respective goals of national construction and as our economies develop, the prospects for bilateral friendly cooperation will become even brighter.

Now I would like to invite all comrades and friends to toast the friendly and cooperative relations between Chinese and Vietnamese peoples and countries, the prosperous Vietnam and happy Vietnamese people, and the good health of Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, President Le Duc Anh, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife, and all comrades and friends here.

VNA Reports Vo Van Kiet Speech

BK0112072192 Hanoi VNA in English 0628 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 1—Following are excerpts from the speech delivered by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet at a banquet given here yesterday by himself and his wife in honour of Chinese Premier and Mrs. Li Peng shortly after they arrived in Hanoi for an official visit to Vietnam.

"Vietnam and China are neighours sharing rivers and mountains. Through thousands of years of history the two peoples have forged close ties of neighbourhood and friendship. In the struggle for national liberation, the peoples of the two countries have shared weal and woe, united with each other, cooperated and supported each other for the revolutionary cause of each country. Imbued with the tradition of loyalty, our people always bear in mind the Chinese people's valuable support and assistance and greatly treasure the traditional Sino-Vietnamese friendship.

"More than a year ago, party and state leaders of the two countries took the correct decision to restore normal relations between the two parties and the two countries, opening a new stage for the development of the relations of good neighbourhood and friendship. That meets the deep aspiration of the two peoples and conforms with lasting fundamental interests of both our countries and with the trend toward peace and cooperation in the region. However, we cannot be fully satisfied with what has been done so far because our potentials for cooperation remain very big. Problems left by history and newly-emerging questions require our joint efforts to solve them step by step through consultations on the basis of equality and respect for each other's sovereignty and interests in order to further promote the friendship and broaden and deepen the cooperation between the two countries, thus contributing to promoting the trend to peace, stability and cooperation in the region.

"Our frank and friendly talks this afternoon reflects both sides' desire to build a more effective cooperation. Your Vietnam visit this time as well as the treaties and agreements to be reached will surely constitute another milestone in that direction. For our part, we pledge to do all in our power to contribute to the execution of the noble tasks already laid down by both sides."

VNA Reports Li Peng Speech

BK0112074992 Hanoi VNA in English 0652 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 1—Chinese Premier Li Peng delivered a speech of reply here yesterday evening at the banquet offered by Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet shortly after he and his party arrived for an official visit to Vietnam.

Following are excerpts from his speech:

The Vietnamese and Chinese peoples have a long history of friendly relations. They have extended mutual sympathy and support in the fight for national independence and liberation of each country. Although the relations between the two countries have experienced ups-and-downs and some difficult times, Vietnamese and Chinese leaders at their summit meeting in November 1991 decided "to close the past and open up the futures and to carry out normalization of relations, taking the cooperation and friendship between the two countries to a new stage of development. The Chinese Government and people greatly treasure the traditional friendship of the two peoples and pay great importance to developing the relations of good neighbourhood and cooperation between the two countries. Over the past one year, the two countries have step by step restored and developed their relations and cooperation in the political, economic, scientific-technical and cultural domains. We should value this highly and consider it beneficial to the common interests of both peoples. At the same time, it should be pointed out that we can and must do much more and great efforts are required. China and Vietnam are both developing countries both faced with the task of developing the economy to improve the peoples' living conditions. We are both building socialism each according to the concrete national conditions, both needing a peaceful and stable international situation. These common points of Vietnam and China are the basis for our cooperation. We are firmly confident that with our common efforts, the friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further developed. In regard to the existing issues, including territorial and border disputes, we are ready to settle them appropriately through friendly consultations in the spirit of mutual respect and understanding. The border negotiations between the two countries have made a good start.

We hope to accelerate the negotiating process so as to solve the disputes early and in a fair and reasonable manner. Regarding those issues which cannot be settled immediately, our position is to temporarily leave them aside for more consideration since we have plenty of time to spare. We strongly believe that our common points are bigger than our differences. Therefore, both sides should strive not to let some differences affect the relations between the two countries.

The world now is in a time of great upheavals, the international situation is changing unceasingly and economic competition has become fiercer and fiercer. In our Asia, the situation is relatively stable, the economy remains on the upward trend. The international and regional situation is both a big challenge and a rare opportunity for us. China, as a developing country, always pursues a foreign policy of peace, independence and sovereignty on the basis of Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, is ready to develop relations of cooperation and friendship with all countries, especially its neighbours. The Chinese Government has many times solemnly declared that China will never become a hegemonistic and expansionist power, at the same time it protests against hegemonism and big power politics in all forms. Our stance is that all differences and disputes among countries should be solved peacefully in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law through consultations without resort to force or the threat of force. China is steadfast force to defend world peace. Its limited national defence force has a purely self-defence character. We definitely do not threaten any country nor are we filling any "vacuum." All the countries in Southeast Asia are friendly neighbours of China. China is ready to make every effort, together with other countries, to contribute to the safeguard of peace and the promotion of the economic development in the region.

Commentary on Visit's Significance

BK0112122492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in English 1000 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Chinese Premier Li Peng arrived in Hanoi on Monday for an official friendship visit to Vietnam. This important event demonstrates the advanced stage of the process of normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations. Here is our radio commentary on this event:

The visit to Vietnam by Chinese Premier Li Peng is the first visit to Vietnam by a Chinese premier since the 1970's. The mass media of both Vietnam and China during these days ran a number of articles on the visit to Vietnam by the Chinese Government leader. This demonstrates that both Vietnam and China attach great importance to this event because it will help promote the process for normalization of relations between the two countries and their comprehensive cooperation, especially in trade.

Mr. (Wei Chen Wong), deputy head of the Asian Department of the External Trade Ministry of China, said in Beijing that the economic and trade ties between China and Vietnam will be promoted following the Chinese premier's visit to Vietnam. Mr. (Wei Chen Wong) also said that China will gradually increase its direct investment in Vietnam after the signing of agreements on this occasion. The Chinese paper PEOPLE'S DAILY said: At present, the trade relations between the two countries have been restored rapidly. During the past nine months, the trade exchanges between the two countries reached $104 million. This is an increase compared with the same period last year. The figure is expected to be higher following the trip to Vietnam by Premier Li Peng.

In his message of congratulations to his Vietnamese counterpart, Mr. Vo Van Kiet, in October, Premier Li Peng stated that the constant consolidation and development of Sino-Vietnamese relations respond to the fundamental interests and aspirations of the peoples of the two countries. With efforts from both sides, the friendship between the two neighboring countries of Vietnam and China will certainly be further developed.

In such a situation, Vietnam believes that the visit to Vietnam this time by Premier Li Peng will be crowned with success marking a new development in Sino-Vietnamese relations and mutual cooperation.

Russia's Khasbulatov Receives Envoy in Moscow

BK2811144592 Hanoi VNA in English 1423 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 28—Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet R. Khasbulatov yesterday received Vietnamese Ambassador Ho Huan Nghiem, VNA correspondent in Moscow reports.

The Russian leader highly appreciated Vietnam's important achievements in its renovation policy and warmly welcomed Vietnam's open-door foreign policy. Russia and Vietnam, he said, have great potentials to strengthen and develop their bilateral relations, including the relations between the Russian Supreme Soviet and the Vietnamese National Assembly.

Khmer Rouge Cease-fire Violations Viewed

BK3011150492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Radio "opinion" on the Khmer Rouge violations of the cease-fire in Cambodia]

[Text] Late last week, the Khmer Rouge again fired at an helicopter of the UN peacekeeping force while it was flying over the northwestern area of Cambodia. Here is our radio review of this event.

This is the 20th plane of UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] which has been fired at by the Khmer Rouge in the past months. A UNTAC spokesman said that on 20 November, the Khmer Rouge fired rockets and mortar shells on some villages in Angkor Chey District about 40 kilometers north of Siem Reap. More seriously still, on 21 November, they attacked a Thai sapper company of the UNTAC force, wounding a Thai soldier. This is the second Thai wounded soldier. The armed attacks by the Khmer Rouge and their refusal to take part in the peace process in Cambodia have been condemned by the world public. On 22 November, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the National Supreme Council [SNC], called this action of the Khmer Rouge as wrong and unjustifiable betrayal. The same day, speaking in an interview over television, Australian Foreign Minister Evans said this criminal action of the Khmer Rouge is dangerous.

Public opinion hopes that there should be effective measures to curb the hands of the Khmer Rouge and force them to rejoin the peace process in Cambodia.

More Financial Aid Expected From Germany

BK3011155292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] The German Government has reaffirmed its increasing aid to Vietnam before the federal government announces the reduction of its federal budget. In the 1992 financial year, Germany will raise its aid to Vietnam to 49 million Deutsche marks, an increase of 20 million Deutsche marks over 1991.